

Best semester of my life. Now what?

Now that you're back, you should be thinking about how to process, re-live or build upon your time abroad. Here are some suggestions to add to the mix.



Become a CU Abroad Ambassador

Share your experience and inspire the next generation! You will be an official representative of Cornell Abroad on campus. Time commitment is about 1 hour per week, and very flexible to fit into your schedule.

Ambassadors:

- Present in 6 classes, less than 5 minutes each. We provide class lists.
- Staff a Cornell Abroad table at events, usually with one or two other Ambassadors
- Meet 3 times a semester to share ideas and plan activities.

Tie the Experience to your Academic Work

Cornell offers hundreds of courses with an international component across all seven colleges. Check out the Einaudi Center for International Studies website (einaudi.cornell.edu) to view a comprehensive international course search engine. Check on new courses added after course enrollment and consider taking a graduate course. Incorporate your experience abroad into research papers or an honors thesis, or develop a topic for independent study.

Complete a Cornell Abroad Evaluation

Leave lasting comments for advisors and potential study abroad students to draw upon. The evaluation takes only a few minutes to complete but will be useful for many years to come. You will receive it as a link in your Welcom Back Newsletter.

Declare an International Minor

Cornell students of any major and college are eligible to declare a minor in a region of interest through one of the six **Area Studies Programs** at Cornell: East Asia Program, Institute for African Development, Institute for European Studies, Latin American Studies Program, South Asia Program, and Southeast Asia Program. The **International Relations** Minor is another option for students who seek a broader international perspective that explores the social, economic and political dimensions faced globally. Students interested in mapping their experience abroad onto transnational or U.S.-based ethnic and cultural studies, might consider a minor in **Ethnic Studies** such as Asian-American or Africana Studies. A minor in **Global Health** is an option for students who pursued field work abroad.

Consider An International Career

Students who have lived and studied abroad have the advantage of possessing many unique and "exportable" skills, such as language ability, cross-cultural adaptability, or regional knowledge. Use study abroad to your advantage by exploring summer, short-term or permanent international job or internship opportunities with U.S.-based and/or overseas employers. For information on international jobs, go to the Cornell Career Services website at www.career.cornell.edu, and click on "Finding Jobs", then "International Opportunities."

continued on next page

Live with International Students

Take advantage of international resident life at Cornell or seek international roommates for off-campus housing. The **Holland International Living Center (HILC)** and The **Language House** provide students the opportunity to live with internationally minded peers and allow for continued exposure to cross-cultural environments and language practice. HILC and Language House welcome non-residents to participate in their activities.

Join an International Student Club at Cornell

Many Cornell student organizations have an international focus. Regional and cultural organizations such as the *Vietnamese Association*, *Society for European Affairs*, or *Australians and New Zealanders at Cornell*, are a great way to keep your language or cultural experience alive.

Look for international art, music, or dance organizations to continue your Tai Chi practice, or to improve your skill on the African Drum. Also consider social action and international development organizations such as *Engineers for a Sustainable World*. See the list of organizations at:

http://orgsync.rso.cornell.edu/Search_UG.

Maintain and Improve your Language

Don't lose language skills you worked so hard to get! Have dinner and speak in your host country language with a group from the Language House. Join the Cornell Public Service Center's Language Pairing Program, take advanced language courses, or commit to daily practice on your own. Language House dinner schedules for the Arabic, French, German, Japanese, Mandarin, or Spanish groups are available at:

alicecookhouse.cornell.edu/language-house.cfm.

Study Abroad Again as a Graduate Student

Browse Cornell and college-specific career service resource libraries for information and guidance on applying to graduate schools abroad. Cornell Career Services can assist students in finding fellowships for research or programs of interest abroad, including the prestigious Rhodes, Marshall, or Luce Fellowships. The Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies in Uris Hall provides sponsorship, funding and support services to Cornell undergraduate alumni and graduate students. Students may consider applying for international studies fellowships such as the Fulbright, Fulbright-Hayes or Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) program.

Stay Internationally Informed

Keep track of the news from your host country by reading one of the national newspapers available in the basement of Olin Library or through the internet. Watch streaming international news broadcasts from your host country on SCOLA the international cable news TV channel provided free through the Language Resource Center. Your handbook has details, and is on the web site under the Health & Safety tab.

Publish Your Experience

Write about your experience abroad for publication in the Cornell Daily Sun, Abroad View Magazine, or Glimpse Magazine. Also submit stories to CU Abroad's semesterly newsletter.

Join an International Organization

Many returned students find that living abroad brings new interests, ideas and concerns to the forefront. Even more numerous than the international clubs at Cornell are outside international organizations and associations that welcome new members and participants. Pre-med students might consider joining the *Global Health Action Committee* of the *Pre-Med Student Association*. Social or political groups such as *AIESEC* (youth leadership development), *Rotary International* (service and volunteer organization), *Ten Thousand Villages* (fair trade), *World Wildlife Foundation*, or more specialized grassroots-based organizations such as *Educate The Children* in Nepal, provide opportunities for students to focus on important issues and concerns experienced while abroad.

Volunteer In International Service

Visit the Cornell Public Service Center in 200 Barnes Hall to learn about international volunteer opportunities such as Alternative Spring Break, Language Pairing Program, Operation D.E.E.P. in China and other service programs abroad. Consider volunteering after graduation with the Peace Corps, with a private charitable organization, or spend time teaching English as a Second Language.

Keep Your Friendships

To keep your experience alive, set aside time every once in a while to reflect on what you have gained from it. Keep communication with friends, host families, classmates and professors abroad.

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