

ALASKA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

STUDY AWAY / STUDY ABROAD STUDENT QUICK GUIDE

HOW TO PREPARE – Students study away for many reasons:

- To fulfill degree requirements with a different perspective
- To take elective courses or meet foundation course requirements with classes not found at APU
- To spend time living and learning in a different community, country, or culture

WHERE TO BEGIN – Alaska Pacific University is pleased to offer study away opportunities to students through faculty-led courses and through agreements with EcoLeague, National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), and University of the Arctic. Faculty courses are promoted throughout campus and are generally offered during block or summer sessions. Through agreements, APU students can explore domestic and international academic programs to complement a degree or meet personal goals and interests.

- EcoLeague <http://ecoleague.org/>
- NOLS <https://www.nols.edu/en/>
- University of the Arctic / north2north <https://education.uarctic.org/mobility/about-north2north/>

NATIONAL OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP SCHOOL (NOLS)

Students may spend up to one (1) semester and take pre-approved courses through a NOLS program. This experiential academic program allows the APU student to maintain all APU scholarships and other academic institutional aid to pay their NOLS tuition. Domestic (US) and international destinations are available. Students are responsible for their travel, course materials, NOLS fees and housing costs. Interested students **apply by February 15** for the following academic year. All students must have a letter/memo of support from their academic advisor. Applications can be found in the Provost's office.

For Outgoing students (from APU to another institution): work with your academic advisor to ensure you will be taking courses that fit your academic program.

ECOLEAGUE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

APU is a member of the inter-college exchange group called the EcoLeague. The EcoLeague is composed of six colleges and universities, all small, all with strong programs in Environmental Science, Sustainability Studies, Marine Biology, Outdoor Studies, and similar programs. The colleges include: APU, College of the Atlantic, Dickinson College, New College of Florida, Northland College, and Prescott College. Through this program, APU students in their sophomore or junior year may elect to spend up to two, non-consecutive semesters studying at EcoLeague member institutions as part of their academic program. Students continue to pay full-time tuition to their home institution. Course Fees, labs, and room & board are paid to the host institution. Travel costs are covered by the student.

For Outgoing students (from APU to another institution): work with your academic advisor to ensure you will be taking courses that fit your academic program.

UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC NORTH2NORTH (N2N) PROGRAM

The University of the Arctic (UARctic) is a cooperative network of universities, colleges, and other organizations committed to higher education and research in the North. Universities and colleges throughout Canada, Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Scotland, Sweden, and the United States participate in the north2north program. APU students can enhance professional and academic programs and gain knowledge about Northern/Arctic issues and people by taking Northern/Arctic courses at another circumpolar institution. Through this

program, called north2north (n2n), APU students in their sophomore or junior year may elect to spend anywhere from a short field course up to one year studying at n2n member institutions as part of their academic program. APU students continue to pay full-time tuition to their home institution (APU). Any course fees, labs, and room & board are paid to the host institution. Passport, visa, and other travel costs are covered by the student. Interested students must have a minimum 2.5 GPA, and have sophomore standing (transfer students – undergraduates must have completed 12 credits; graduate students 6 credits) and **apply by February 15** for the following academic year. Study away in the final semester at APU is not permitted.

For Outgoing students (from APU to another institution): work with APU Career Services & Study Away to apply and for program details; meet with your academic advisor to ensure you will be taking courses that fit your academic program.

OTHER STUDY AWAY PROGRAMS

There are many organizations that offer academic study abroad or study away programs. While APU does not have formal agreements beyond those listed, you can discuss these options with your faculty advisor. Short-term or internship programs especially can often be incorporated into your degree program. If an outside program or course of study is approved by your faculty advisor and the Registrar, be sure to discuss any financial concerns with the Office of Financial Aid before applying. Additional expenses may be incurred and are the responsibility of the student, and not all programs are eligible for use of your financial aid, scholarships, or grants.

TIPS FOR SELECTING A PROGRAM

- Start meeting with an advisor and planning as early as you can. General requirements are easiest to fulfill and transfer in from another school, while upper-division major courses are much harder.
- Most students who study away do so during their sophomore or junior year, while internships tend to happen in junior or senior year.
- Credits toward a practicum or internship are ideal for an experience away from APU.
- If you are considering a program abroad, taking a beginning language course is highly recommended if you don't have the opportunity to learn it before your experience. Most n2n programs offer options for coursework in English, but learning the language can also give you some cultural understanding of the host country.

ONCE YOU HAVE SELECTED A PROGRAM:

- 1) Meet with your Academic Advisor to ensure that the courses you want to take will either meet requirements or count as the electives you desire. Select MORE courses than you plan to take just in case there are scheduling problems upon arrival.
- 2) Meet with the Registrar to ensure smooth transfer of your courses and to enroll in the APU Placeholder Course for the term/s you will be away.
- 3) Meet with Financial Aid to ensure that your scholarships and any aid are sufficient. You may be eligible to apply for additional aid based on the cost of your program.
- 4) If you are applying to an international program, apply for your passport. Inquire about a student visa you might need for an extended stay, and how to apply for that. Be aware that you may have to travel to a regional consulate in another state to obtain a visa; this cost can also be calculated into your financial aid needs.
- 5) Secure housing. All programs will have a study away coordinator or office that can provide housing options for you. Some options may require an advance down-payment. Determine your choices for housing and meal options as early as possible.
- 6) Investigate flight and travel options. This expense can be factored into your financial aid needs.
- 7) Be aware of dates at the host university: arrival, move-in for housing, or orientation to make your travel plans.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT CAREER SERVICES, GRANT 222D, 907-564-8345 OR CareerServices@alaskapacific.edu