



TALKING TO YOUR LOVED ONES ABOUT STUDYING AWAY

Studying away can be an extremely beneficial experience but it can be a big decision, not just for you, but for your loved ones as well. It may seem challenging to talk to your loved ones about studying away, so below are some suggestions for how to prepare and facilitate this discussion.



Do Your Research

- Research programs that match your studies and goals.
- Give your loved ones as much information as possible.
- Gather program information, statistics, or articles that show the personal, academic, and professional benefits of studying away.



Approaching the Topic

- Broach the topic slowly.
- Gauge your loved one's feelings first.
- For example: start by asking your loved ones about their own travel experiences or start the discussion of studying in Italy over a big Italian meal you've cooked for them.
- Think carefully about what approach would work best for your loved ones. - you know them best!



Be Mature & Flexible

- Try to stay calm and have a discussion, not an argument.
- Listen and acknowledge the concerns or objections they have.
- Don't expect them to make a decision right away.
- Allow flexibility (destination, amount of time away, etc.) so your loved ones feel like a part of the decision making process.



Show Financial Responsibility

- Request a study away program estimate from Financial Aid -this can take some time so plan ahead!
- Create a budget including Financial Aid and scholarships (see Budgeting for Study Abroad on our website).
- Start saving NOW.
- Consider getting a job.



Safety Comes First

- Understand that your safety might be your loved one's main concerns.
- Provide your loved ones with health and safety information.
- Share information about your health insurance coverage.
- Explain the on-site support your program provides.



Create a Communication Plan

- Design a schedule for communicating while away
- Be sure to consider the different time zones and communication methods (phone plans, Skype, FaceTime, Whatsapp, Facebook etc.)