

Pitzer College embraces a unique set of educational objectives that encourage students from all majors to think about the world in ways that expand their understanding of other cultures while working to translate that knowledge into action that will benefit the communities they become a part both here or abroad. This type of learning is fostered by the Pitzer curriculum in Claremont and through study abroad. The college has approved over 50 programs which meet these criteria.

**The office encourages students interested in a semester abroad to begin their search by reviewing the Pitzer College [approved programs](#) listed on the study abroad website.** Programs offered by the other Claremont Colleges, other universities, or providers may not be approved by Pitzer or available to Pitzer students. Each college has their own unique list of approved programs and policies for study abroad. As a Pitzer student you can participate in the unique and innovative programs available to only Pitzer students.

**However, students may petition to participate in an unapproved program if its academic offerings, program opportunities, and/or cultural exploration cannot be reasonably matched by an approved program. In other words, unapproved programs should not duplicate a study abroad program already approved and must demonstrate they are safe, contain academic merit, and cultural immersion.** Pitzer College has no official relationship with unaffiliated programs. Therefore, all students considering unapproved programs must:

- Be prepared to navigate the process very independently
- Understand the policies and procedures related to the program
- Understand the visa process for their program
- Research the coursework available
- Research room and board arrangements for the program
- Explore the admissions criteria of the program (some opportunities are open to any college student and other programs are only available to affiliated partners/colleges)

If a student decides to move forward with the petition process for an unapproved program, they must complete the Pitzer College study abroad application process first and be approved BEFORE applying to the unaffiliated program. Pitzer College only grants permission for a limited number of Pitzer students to participate in non-approved programs. Applying for a non-approved program is competitive and selective. All students considering a non-approved program should have an approved program as a backup option.

### [Application Checklist](#)

**Attend a Study Abroad Information Session:** All students planning to study abroad must attend an information session. Information sessions provide an overview of study abroad policies and highlight different program models available to Pitzer students. Visit the website for the time, dates, and locations of sessions.

**Research Program Options:** We encourage students to take the following steps to make their study abroad choice:

- Consider the information on the courses available, type of program, support, dates, and housing
- Students should ensure they satisfy the program's requirements. Some programs are competitive, and others are not. Pitzer students must have a minimum GPA of 2.0 to study abroad. GPA requirements for some programs may be higher.
- Students should review visa information and check their passport expiration date, if it will expire in 2024 then the passport needs to be renewed. If a student does not have a passport, they should begin the process of applying for one early.

**Meet with an Adviser:** After attending an information session, Pitzer students should make an appointment with a study abroad adviser to discuss their goals, learn about options, and identify the programs that work best. Study abroad advising times are available throughout the week in person and on zoom; students can sign up via the study abroad website.

As part of the research phase students should also connect with their faculty adviser or someone from their major to receive guidance. Each field group, in conjunction with the Office of the Registrar, has discretion over whether a course will be awarded major or minor credit.

Students are expected to conduct their own research and work closely with their Study Abroad Adviser and Faculty Adviser prior to making their selection. Completing this process helps ensure applicants have chosen a program for which they are qualified, that is appropriate for their goals, and that logistically (visas, dates, etc...) makes sense.

**Select a Program and Term:** Students can only apply to one program per term. Students may request an application by emailing [studyabroad@pitzer.edu](mailto:studyabroad@pitzer.edu) after choosing a term (fall, spring, or summer) and choosing a program.

**Complete and Submit the Study Abroad Application:** The application includes student information, waiver and consent, academic information, petition essays, the faculty adviser's approval, and for the petition process students must submit an Academic Endorsement from their adviser. Students should request faculty recommendations as early as possible to allow sufficient time for faculty to complete the forms before the deadline.

**Approval:** Study abroad decisions are typically made by the end of the fall semester. The SAIP Committee comprised of faculty, students, and study abroad staff convene to make all decisions about non-approved program petitions. During this phase there may be additional documents needed to maintain eligibility. Students will be notified by email when a decision has been made.

**Post-Decision Steps:** Students who are approved will need to commit or decline their offer. Students who are denied should work with the office to find alternative options. AFTER students are approved by Pitzer College to study abroad, they will then submit materials required by the host program. It is important that students continue to check email and submit requested materials to the study abroad office and host program. Failure to do so may result in a student being unable to study abroad.

## **PITZER COLLEGE STUDY ABROAD APPLICATION DUE DATES**

**NOV 15, 2023:** Costa Rica Summer Health Program; Fall 2024 Approved Programs; Full Year 2024-2025 Approved Programs; **All Non-Approved Program Petitions for both Fall 2024 and Spring 2025**

**DECEMBER 1, 2023:** Pitzer in Vietnam Summer Program and Pitzer in Brazil Summer Program

**MAY 1, 2024:** Spring 2025 Approved Programs