

February 24, 2010

Dear Student and Family:

At Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), we encourage our students to pursue education abroad. IIT has agreements with over 80 universities in more than 20 countries around the world. On IIT's Study Abroad Web page (<http://studyabroad.iit.edu>), you can find a listing of all the programs offered to students for summer, semester, and academic yearlong studies abroad. We have programs that fit every academic discipline and travel interests, including architecture courses in Paris; business courses in Germany, Singapore, and Mexico; and engineering courses in Spain, France, and Korea (to name a few). Students may be directly enrolled at a foreign institution or participate in an exchange program through IIT. Additionally, the fact that 16% of IIT's undergraduate population is originally from outside the United States provides our students with an excellent resource and competitive advantage concerning academic and cultural aspects of many countries across the globe.

The importance of education abroad in today's world is clear – knowledge gained through a summer, semester, or year overseas strengthens the overall academic experience of students studying in U.S. higher education. Upon returning to the U.S., students are equipped with additional “schools of thought” and approaches to coursework and research projects in a more “globalized” form of critical thinking. Moreover, studying abroad expands a student's perspective on other cultures and communities, which in turn broadens their academic interests and social awareness. At IIT, study abroad is a viable option for domestic students, as well as international students. The International Center will work with students on an F-1 visa to ensure that immigration procedures are properly addressed. In the past, international students at IIT have studied abroad in China, India, and several countries in Europe and South America.

Students that make education abroad a priority during their college career are confident, well-rounded, empathetic individuals that have a better grasp of the diverse peoples in the world. They are able to handle any situation that comes their way academically, professionally, and personally, based on their unique experience of studying and traveling in foreign countries. The knowledge and wisdom that comes from studying abroad is unparalleled to any experience students may have during college. It removes students from everything familiar and places them in a unique learning environment that goes beyond text books and classrooms. In short, study abroad is a life-changing experience.

Study Abroad Program Highlights –

Semester/Yearlong Programs:

- Architecture Program in Paris, France
 - Resident IIT faculty teach elective studios in Paris, France
 - Travel outside Paris to significant architectural sites in Europe
 - Receive IIT credits abroad
- Business Exchange Program
 - Offered with Pforzheim University (Germany), Singapore Management University (Singapore), and Tec de Monterrey (Mexico)

- Engineering Programs
 - Mechanical, Material, and Aerospace Engineering Program offered at INSA-Lyon in Villeurbanne, France
 - Member of GE3 (Global Engineering Education Exchange)
- Programs in the Sciences
 - Offered at University College Cork-Ireland (most majors)

Spring Semester 2010 Programs:

- Europe – Approximately 50 students will study abroad during the spring break period, including three architecture studio trips—traveling to Spain and Portugal (undergraduates), Switzerland (graduates), and a traveling seminar in Japan (undergraduates and graduates).
- Haiti – A service learning trip will potentially travel to Haiti to help rebuild infrastructure due to the recent earthquake (5 undergraduate students).
- These programs will be one to two weeks in length.

Summer Programs:

- Paris, France Summer 2010
 - Humanities and social science courses taught by IIT faculty
 - Visits to historic museums and landmarks
- College of Architecture Programs –
 - There will be 4 summer programs: faculty-lead travel study programs will visit Spain and Portugal; Berlin; Eastern Europe; and Paris.
- International Summer School Program 2010 (China)
 - Offered at University of Electronic Science and Technology of China in Chengdu
 - Language and Chinese immersion classes taught in both Chinese and English over a four-week period

I hope this brief introduction to education abroad at IIT has given you an idea of all the possibilities students have when considering studies overseas. If you would like to learn more about study abroad at IIT, I encourage you to visit studyabroad.iit.edu and contact Louis Berends, Coordinator of Study Abroad & Cultural Programs, by phone at 312.567.3617 or via email to lberends@iit.edu.

Over the course of the next several months, I will continue this conversation with you as preparation for your arrival on campus in August 2010. Our work together has already begun, and we look forward to your arrival as a member of this community, a participant in one of many study abroad opportunities, and to the change that you will bring to the world.

On behalf of entire IIT community, and the more than 65,000 alumni living in over 100 countries (and no doubt growing by the time you read this letter), we welcome you to a community dedicated to leadership, scholarship, stewardship and service – all within the context of local/neighborhood and global communities.

Sincerely,

Gerald P. Doyle
 Vice Provost
 Undergraduate Admission & Financial Aid