



CONSIDERATIONS WHEN CHOOSING A MASTER'S DEGREE ABROAD

CSU International Programs does not formally advise on graduate degrees abroad; however, this handout is meant to serve as an informal resource for those considering Master's degree options abroad.

1. **Goals:** Define your goals! What are you hoping to achieve while abroad? What are your priorities? What are your future career aspirations? Outlining your goals will help make your search easier!
2. **Academics:** Choose a degree that offers courses and opportunities that interest you. You will need to determine how long you want to be abroad as there are one and two year programs available. Do you want to complete an internship as part of your degree? It is important to research the reputation and ranking of the university, identify the accrediting body, and talk to those to have already completed the program.
3. **Admission Requirements:** Be sure to review each program's prerequisites and admission requirements carefully. In general, Master's programs abroad do not require the GRE, which helps save some money and anxiety for those who struggle with taking tests.
4. **Language Skills:** Do not limit your search to only English-speaking countries! Thousands of programs in non-English speaking countries offer coursework taught completely or partially in English. And for those programs, native English speakers are not required to take an English proficiency test for admission.
5. **Costs:** Many programs abroad are more cost effective than those here in the U.S. Be sure to review the tuition and fee costs and create a budget. Keep in mind that the cost of living can vary significantly depending on the country, so look up currency conversion rates. Many programs abroad, particularly in Europe, do not charge tuition. Imagine the potential cost savings!
6. **Funding/Scholarship Opportunities:** Having a researched financial plan is important. Funding may be available to students enrolling in Master's degrees abroad, but you need to search for opportunities. Check to see if there is governmental or university funding available to international students. You may receive U.S. federal funding if you attend an international university that participates in U.S. federal student aid programs (also known as "Title 4 eligible" institutions). You would need to complete your FAFSA and adhere to the U.S. Department of Education's process for accessing aid. Some countries will allow you to work part time on a study visa, but most will restrict you from full-time employment.
7. **Transferable Qualifications:** Investigate whether the Master's degree will be acknowledged in your field. Note that certain fields (medicine, counseling, teaching, etc.) may not accept degrees, certifications, or licensures from universities/countries abroad. Talk to someone in your field about the acceptance of an international degree, certification, or license. Consider using a professional credential evaluation service, like World Education Services, to determine whether a potential degree abroad would offer similar courses.
8. **Visa Requirements:** Keep in mind that you may need to obtain a study visa. Research the visa requirements well in advance, as most require proof of financial resources, and it can take time to save up!



Master's Program Search Engines:

Mastersportal: www.mastersportal.com/

Study in Europe: http://ec.europa.eu/education/study-in-europe_en

German Academic Exchange Services: www.daad.de/deutschland/studienangebote/international-programs/en/

FindAMasters: www.findamasters.com/study-abroad/

InternationalGraduate.net: www.internationalgraduate.net/

Financial Resources:

U.S. Department of Education – Federal Student Aid: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/prepare-for-college/choosing-schools/types/international>

Countries with Affordable Degrees: <http://www.topuniversities.com/student-info/studying-abroad/where-can-you-study-abroad-free>

Fulbright U.S. Student Program (worldwide): <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/fulbright-us-student-program>

Rotary Global Grant Scholarship (worldwide): <https://my.rotary.org/en/take-action/apply-grants/global-grants>

Country/Region Specific Resources:

Erasmus+ Programme (EU): http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en

American-Scandinavian Foundation: www.amscan.org/fellowships-and-grants/alternate-funding-sources-for-study-or-research-in-denmark-finland-iceland-norway-and-sweden/

Chinese University Program: www.campuschina.org/content/details3_74779.html

Danish State Scholarship: <http://studyindenmark.dk/study-options/tuition-fees-scholarships>

German Academic Exchange Services: www.daad.org/scholarship

Norwegian Marshall Fund: <https://noram.no/en/scholarship-americans/>

Study in Finland: www.studyinfinland.fi/tuition_fees_and_scholarships#Bachelor%20and%20Master

Swedish Institute: <https://si.se/en/apply/scholarships/>

Other Resources:

Benefits of Getting a Degree Abroad: www.idealists.org/info/GradEducation/Resources/Abroad/Benefits

World Education Services – Credential Evaluation: www.wes.org/educators/evaluation.asp

Foreign Embassies Listing – Visa Requirements: www.embassy.org/embassies/

CSU Career Center – <https://career.colostate.edu/>