

What's the right program type for you?



	VT FACULTY-LED	VT EXCHANGE	ISEP EXCHANGE	ISEP DIRECT	THIRD PARTY	AUTONOMOUS STUDY
PROGRAM TYPE	Usually designed by VT faculty and sponsored by a specific VT department.	VT has forged partnerships with 60 prestigious universities worldwide that engage in student exchange	VT partners with ISEP, a non-profit educational organization, as ISEP has a network of 174 universities for exchange	VT partners with ISEP, a non-profit educational organization, with direct enroll options into 60 universities	These non-VT affiliated study abroad organizations act as intermediaries for logistics (housing, transcript); often onsite staff offers support	An inexpensive option countries with low/no tuition, <u>provided</u> they allow enrollment without a VT partnership
COST-EFFECTIVE	Good for all students	Best for in-state students (as you pay VT your in-state tuition)	Best for in-state students (as you pay VT your in-state tuition)	Good for all students (if a low cost program in a low cost-living area)	Best for out-of-state students	Good for all students (if a low cost program in a low cost-living area)
TERMS	Summer, short spring and winter, some semesters	Some summer, semester, academic year	Semester, academic year	Semester, academic year	Summer, winter session, semester, academic year	Summer, winter session, semester, academic year
TUITION	VT tuition (20% discount on short-term programs) and comprehensive fees	Tuition and fees paid to VT	Tuition and fees paid to VT	Host university tuition is paid directly to them	Program fees (incl. tuition) are paid directly to the Third Party	Tuition and fees paid to the host university
ADMINISTRATIVE & PROGRAM FEES	Often a non-refundable deposit; program fees vary; GEO application fee (\$50) and participation fee (\$50)	GEO application fee (\$50) and participation fee (\$150); some exchange programs have separate fees (unrelated to tuition) required by the partner institution	Study abroad and international exchange participation fee (\$150)	Study abroad and international exchange participation fee (\$150)	Study abroad and international exchange participation fee (\$150); GEO application fee (\$50) may be applicable to specific programs	Study abroad and international exchange participation fee (\$150)
ROOM & BOARD	Included in the program fee. Housing will be arranged (may be a homestay with a local family, or ho(s)tel	You pay room and board to the host university and work with them to find housing (dorms, homestays, apartments). Some programs may instead require a \$5,900 fee to Virginia Tech.	You pay room and board to VT (about \$ 5,900 a semester). Might require finding housing yourself (homestay, dorms, apartments)	You pay room and board to host institution. Might require finding housing yourself (homestays, dorms, apartments)	The cost of room and board is included in the total program cost. Housing will be arranged (varies from homestays to dorms or apartments)	You pay room and board to the host university and work with them to find housing (dorms or apartments)
CREDITS & ENROLLMENT	VT credit. Letter grades are recorded. Affects GPA. Participants are enrolled in VT courses for the term abroad.	Must earn the equivalent of a C or better at host institution to transfer credit (T). No grade transfer. No GPA impact. Participants are enrolled at VT for the term abroad, but take courses at the host institution.	Must earn the equivalent of a C or better at host institution to transfer credit (T). Grades don't transfer. No GPA impact. Participants are enrolled at VT for the term abroad, but take courses at the host institution.	Must earn the equivalent of a C or better at host institution to transfer credit (T). No grade transfer. No GPA impact. Participants are not enrolled at VT for the term abroad, but with the host institution.	Must earn the equivalent of a C or better at host institution to transfer credit (T). Grades do not transfer. No GPA impact. Participants are not enrolled at VT for the term abroad, but with the host institution.	Must earn the equivalent of a C or better at host institution to transfer credit (T). No grade transfer. No GPA impact. Participants are not enrolled at VT for the term abroad, but with the host institution.
COMPETITION	Some programs are competitive (check with the program director)	VT programs are competitive; we strive placement in one of your chosen universities.	ISEP will try to place you in your top ten universities	Placement is guaranteed.	Placement is usually guaranteed.	Spots for international non-degree seeking students may be limited.
GPA	Usually requires a 2.5 minimum	Usually requires 2.5 minimum	Usually requires 2.75 minimum	Usually 2.75 minimum	Usually 2.5 (UK may require a 3.0)	Usually 2.5 (UK often 3.0)
IMMERSION	Limited immersion (travel with VT students/faculty)	High immersion (live with local/international students)	High immersion (live with local/international students)	High immersion (live with local/international students)	Varies by program (often there are other students from other U.S.)	High immersion (live with local/international students)
APPLICATION	Apply through GEO website	Apply through GEO website	Apply to ISEP website	Apply to ISEP website	Apply to Third Party website	Apply to host university
DEADLINES	Deadlines vary and are unique to chosen program	For fall: February 15 For spring: September 15	For fall: January 25 For spring: August 25	For fall: January 25 For spring: August 25	Deadlines vary: check with the Third Party providers	Deadlines vary: see host university website