

## CMS SUPPORTS AND ASSISTS STUDENTS WHO STUDY ABROAD

Trained and knowledgeable CMS staff assist students and parents to pursue educational experiences around the world by offering the following assistance:

- Lead advisory sessions to identify suitable programs for placement that meet students' academic goals.
- Provide pre-departure resources for academic planning.
- Support families in obtaining appropriate travel documents, international travel insurance and student identification cards.
- Share resources and information to secure study abroad scholarships.
- Maintain regular contact during experience abroad to support students and their families.
- Provide cultural-planning guides and pre-departure information to enhance the experience abroad.
- Offer opportunities for returning students to share their experiences with other students in CMS.



**“MY DAUGHTER’S EXPERIENCE LIVING IN ANOTHER COUNTRY FOR SIX MONTHS WAS PHENOMENAL. SHE COMPLETELY IMMERSSED HERSELF IN THE CULTURE, THE LIFESTYLE AND HER FAMILY. SHE HAS ALWAYS HAD BIG DREAMS, BUT BECAUSE OF THIS EXPERIENCE HER DREAMS NOT ONLY GOT BIGGER, THEY GREW WIDER TO EXTEND OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES.”**

ANGELA CRAGHEAD — HER DAUGHTER, A MALLARD CREEK HIGH STUDENT, STUDIED ABROAD IN COSTA RICA

**“GOING TO ANOTHER COUNTRY WAS THE GREATEST JOURNEY OF MY LIFE! HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY IN ANOTHER COUNTRY HELPED ME TO RESPECT SO MANY OTHER CULTURES. MY EXPERIENCE CHANGED HOW I FEEL AND VIEW OUR WORLD.”**

MOLLY MOUA — WEST MECKLENBURG HIGH GRADUATE WHO STUDIED ABROAD IN SOUTH KOREA

**“MY DAUGHTER’S STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IN AFRICA WITH THE TRAVELING SCHOOL WAS NOTHING SHORT OF REMARKABLE. AS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, SHE LEARNED TO APPRECIATE A GLOBAL SOCIETY AND NOW HAS A MUCH CLEARER VISION OF WHAT SHE’LL STUDY IN COLLEGE.”**

MARSHA GASPARI — HER DAUGHTER, A MYERS PARK HIGH STUDENT, STUDIED ABROAD IN SOUTH AFRICA



**“COLLEGE AND CAREER-READY.... HERE AND ABROAD”**

# STUDY ABROAD

## ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A CULTURAL ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME?

Imagine yourself visiting ancient Inca ruins in Peru, touring a castle in Germany or taking dance lessons in Ghana. Study abroad is an adventure of a lifetime! There are hundreds of programs available for CMS students to study abroad. Specific applications will vary from program to program. In most cases, program personnel will conduct an interview with a student to make sure that the student is a good fit for the program and/or host family. Students should plan early because applications can be due 4 to 9 months in advance. Age requirements vary as well as cost.

## TYPES OF STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

### Long Term

- Semester or academic year-long programs—students live with a host family and are expected to attend their host international high school daily.
- Gap-Year/13th year of high school—students most often live with a host family and attend high school, work as an intern, attend a language immersion school, or do community service.

### Short Term

- Short term study abroad takes place during the summer. The duration of time can be 3 weeks to 8 weeks. Studies can include language study in an immersion school or camp, a specific course related to host country/culture, community service or home stay only.
- Exchange programs also offer short-term trips available to students during the summer. Students travel as part of an international group with a group leader to visit another country. Trip length varies from 1 week to 4 weeks (approximately).

### International Travel (non-required international field trip)

- The international field trip takes place any time during the school year or summer and is sponsored/coordinated by a CMS school or department. Students travel as a group with a teacher and administrator from their school to an international location, for the primary purpose of travel and tourism. Some CMS schools may establish an exchange agreement with an international school. A field trip under an exchange agreement would include visits to a school and host family stays, in addition to travel and tourism. The international field trip length is typically less than three weeks.

Please note: The above definitions were created by the CMS Study Abroad Office. The definitions will be reviewed and edited on a regular basis as the study abroad industry continues to expand in secondary education and programs change and/or grow to include more areas of study for students.



**“STUDYING ABROAD HAS CHANGED MY LIFE ON MANY LEVELS. I’VE LEARNED TO RECOGNIZE AND ADJUST TO MANY DIFFERENT ASPECTS ON A GLOBAL LEVEL.”**

~ JONATHAN SKIDMORE



**For more information, contact:**  
Study Abroad • 980.343.2654 • [studyabroad@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:studyabroad@cms.k12.nc.us)

In compliance with federal law, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools administers all education programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination against any person on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, national origin, age or disability.



**For more information, please contact Study Abroad:**  
[studyabroad@cms.k12nc.us](mailto:studyabroad@cms.k12nc.us)

# STUDYING ABROAD IS A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE THAT CHALLENGES STUDENTS ACADEMICALLY, CULTURALLY AND SOCIALLY.

## STUDY ABROAD & INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS

CMS Study Abroad Programs offer high school students the unique opportunity to increase their knowledge of the world and further develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills to help them understand cultural perspectives outside of the United States. An educational experience abroad encourages students to see the world from different viewpoints, to learn or improve fluency in other languages and to become culturally competent. This increased world knowledge will strengthen students' skills and help them be competitive in the global market place.

Students can study abroad short-term during the summer or long-term during the fall semester, spring semester or for a full academic year. The cost of programs averages between \$5,000-\$8,500 for a summer,

\$11,000-\$15,000 for a semester and \$15,500-\$20,000 for a full academic year. Costs for study abroad experiences vary depending on the sponsor program and country of study. Most study abroad programs offer scholarship opportunities or financial assistance. Students who are flexible in selecting a host country in which to study have the best opportunity to reduce their program costs.

CMS Study Abroad staff works with exchange agencies that are approved by Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). CSIET identifies reputable international youth exchange programs, provides leadership and gives support to the exchange and educational communities so that students have meaningful and safe international exchange experiences. It also promotes the importance and educational value of international youth exchange.

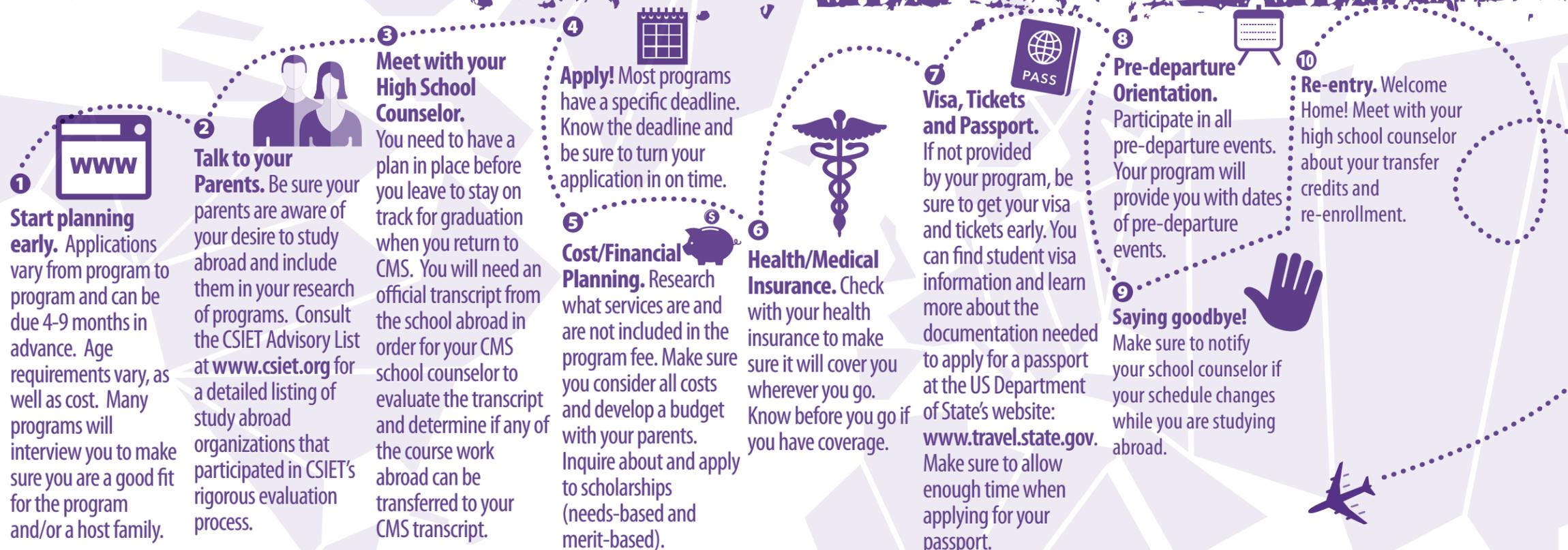


## HOSTING INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS

In addition to the opportunities for our students to study in other countries, there are also opportunities for CMS students and their families to host exchange students who are visiting the United States and studying in CMS. Opening your home to a visiting scholar for a semester or an academic year is also a unique cultural opportunity that benefits the entire family. On average, there are 30 international exchange students studying in CMS.

Studying abroad is a life-changing experience that challenges students academically, culturally and socially. Living and studying in another country broadens a student's perspective and understanding of the world.

# 10 STEPS TO STUDYING ABROAD



## APPLYING TO A STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Good candidates for study abroad are students who are independent, confident, and eager to expand their knowledge and have new experiences. Students need to be in high school and have at least a 2.5 GPA. Students are required to submit a written application including transcripts and teacher recommendation(s). An interview is often conducted by the exchange program to determine readiness for an experience abroad.

## WHY STUDY ABROAD?

- Enhance global competitiveness
- Learn or increase proficiency in another language
- Strengthen and advance college applications
- Learn about new cultures
- Build confidence
- Enhance personal growth and maturity
- Improve adaptability and become more self-reliant
- Develop new, life-long friendships.