

With The University of Alabama's summer study-abroad application deadline coming close, UA holds daily "Study Abroad 101" workshops to inform students about opportunities and programs for studying internationally.

Held in B.B. Comer Hall Monday through Friday, UA student and host of the "Traveling Tide" podcast, Samantha Schumann, leads students in basic information and the first steps for studying abroad.

There are four main types of study abroad opportunities covered in "Study Abroad 101": the UA Faculty-Led Program, UA Exchange Program, UA Affiliate Program, and the Direct Enrollment Program.

The UA Faculty-Led Program allows students to earn UA grades and take UA classes with most programs being held in the summer. While the UA Affiliate Program goes through a third party for enrollment and credits.

The UA Exchange Program can be held in fall or spring semesters, as well as for a full academic year. It allows students to enroll directly in an international university while still being able to pay UA tuition and transfer credits directly to UA.

Similarly, the Direct Enrollment Program is a semester or a year where a student enrolls in an international university, earning credits there.

To get started in the study-abroad process, Schumann said students should meet with their education advisor, contact the program provider for more information, and visit the UA Study Abroad website to find application information.

In the UA Education Abroad offices in B.B. Comer Hall, there are three education abroad advisors each with a focus on one or multiple UA colleges. These advisors are available for pop-up, walk-in, and advising by appointment.

After the presentation, Schumann opened the conversation to the audience's questions.

When asked if a student interested in studying abroad must be already studying the language of that country, Schumann said that is a common misconception.

“I traveled all around Europe only speaking English,” Schumann said. “I promise wherever you go, there are other ways to communicate.”

Schumann responded to students’ worries by explaining why she believes students who are afraid of moving abroad should still consider taking the opportunity.

“You won’t regret it. It is such a big learning opportunity to grow as a person and academically,” Schumann said. “You will learn so much about yourself and the world around you.”

Interview: Samantha Schumann