Recommend Timeline:

1 year in Advance:
- Complete Step 1, 2, & 3
- Apply for Passport, or renew if expiring soon
- Prepare for steps 4 & 5

6 months to 9 months in Advance:
- Complete Step 4 & 5
- Apply for financial aid, scholarships, UG research, etc.
- Start Step 6 if possible
- Research visa requirements
- Research flights (Purchase flights only when you have been officially accepted for your program.)
- Schedule health/dental check-up

3-6 months prior to departure
- Complete Step 6
- Attend Pre-Departure Orientation
- Make final preparations for departure
- Get final health/dental check-up
- Make sure all necessary materials/documents have been completed for your program

1-2 months prior to departure
- Ensure all necessary paperwork or travel documents have been secured
- Obtain all emergency/contact information for your program/host institution
- Notify banking institution, credit card companies, landlord of travel plans
- Review arrival plans (Airport Pick-Up, Address/contact for accommodations, etc.)

APPLICATION DEADLINES:
March 1st (Summer, Fall, Academic Year Programs)
October 1st (Spring Programs)

*Faculty Led Programs have earlier deadlines

Did you know that less than 12% of students in the U.S. actually study abroad while in college?
Let’s change that!
Study Abroad. The journey begins with you.

**Step 1: Academic Planning**

Students with declared majors should work with their academic advisor to map out their academic track at TAMUCC.

Students currently “undeclared,” should meet with the Islander Transition Center to discuss potential academic majors, or programs.

**Things to consider:**

- **Courses:**
  - Major/Minor course requirements
  - Department Requirements
  - Elective requirements

- **Course Sequencing:**
  - Classes to target while away
  - Courses to target on return
  - Courses only offered at TAMUCC that cannot be taken overseas

- **Credits:**
  - Resident vs. Transfer
  - Upper level vs. lower level
  - Credit hours needed to apply for program or exams? (i.e., accounting majors/accounting exam)

- **Other Program Related Items:**
  - Course approval process
  - Adding service learning/internship
  - Transferring out after your return from your program (PSA students, etc.)

Knowing where one stands, academically, can help narrow down program possibilities and determine appropriate terms for when to participate in international experiences.

**Step 2: Financial Planning**

It’s important to figure what kind of financial resources you have at your disposal. There are many projected expenses that students need to plan for, and making sure that you are financially prepared to meet these financial obligations will help you in the long run.

**Things to consider:**

- **Projected Expenses:**
  - What will you have to pay for?
  - What is included in your program fees?
  - When will you be expected to pay for these expenses?
  - How will you pay for these expenses?

- **Types of Financial Resources Available:**
  - Financial Aid:
    - Grants/loans
    - Alternative loans/options
  - Scholarships/Grants:
    - TAMUCC Scholarships
    - National Scholarships
    - Scholarship Competitions
    - Department Scholarships
    - Undergraduate Research grants
    - Department grants/stipends
  - Other sources:
    - Parent(s) or guardian(s)
    - Family or friends
    - Fundraising campaign (through community organizations or online)

**Step 3: Program Search:**

- Stop by the Office of International Education talk to one of our staff members
- Visit our website: [http://studyabroad.tamucc.edu/](http://studyabroad.tamucc.edu/)

TAMUCC utilizes many program options. Be sure you select the option that is best for you.

- **Exchange Options:**
  - Direct partnerships we have with specific universities overseas.
  - Best for semester or academic year students
  - Offers the most variety of courses
  - More affordable option for many students

- **Faculty-Led Programs**
  - Short-term programs
  - Study with TAMUCC faculty & students
  - Most affordable option
  - Specific academic focus

- **Independent/Provider Programs**
  - Independent Organizations or study abroad companies
  - Offers a variety of courses
  - Offer more locations
  - Shorty-term, semester, & AY
  - More expensive

Students should attempt to utilize exchange or faculty-led options first.

If none of the available options are a match, then students are encouraged to utilize an approved provider program.

Start planning and saving far in advance!