

Quinn Brosnahan

I think a lot of new students on campus have an interest in studying abroad at some point during their academic career. The problem is, many don't know where to get information or who to talk to about the study abroad program. For this reason, a lot of new students dismiss the idea of studying abroad because they assume it will be too expensive or it will disrupt their path towards a degree. It is important for new students to start looking into studying abroad as soon as possible because a lot of planning goes into it.

I plan on interviewing several freshmen to ask them about their interest in studying abroad and how much information they have on the universities program. I will also ask them if they know where to go to get information or if they already have made an effort to get involved in the study abroad program.

I will reach out to as many staff members in the study abroad program as possible to see who would be willing to meet with me and sit down for an interview. These staff members include Joy Phaphouvaninh (Interim Director, Illinois Abroad and Global Exchange Associate Director for Global Engagement), Stacy Billman (Associate Director for Administration), Helen Agans (Office Support Associate), Brooke Baslee (Coordinator for Exchange and Student Initiatives), and Alexandra Williamson (Coordinator for Media and Marketing).

I will ask these staff members how new students on campus can get more information on the study abroad program. I will also ask questions like, "Should new students be worried about the costs of studying abroad?" Hopefully I can begin to find out why so many freshmen know nothing about the study abroad program.