

NOW WHAT?

Advice from Past Returnees on How to Ease your Transition Back from Abroad

- **Integrate and build upon your experiences** abroad by incorporating your new interests, knowledge and skills into your current and future academic studies:
 - **Select courses** that deal with issues you became interested in while abroad. Speak to your professors about your interests and how you might incorporate them into your assignments for a course.
 - **Talk to your academic advisor** and other faculty members you are close with. Tell them about your experience and ask for their advice about how to build on that experience. They might have helpful suggestions for courses, internships or careers related to your interests.
 - **Consider an independent study**, senior thesis, or special project to continue exploring an area which is not covered by existing courses. The experiential learning website (<http://www.brandeis.edu/experientiallearning/>) has ideas for finding fellowships and funding for special projects.
 - **Attend lectures and events** related to the areas from which you have just returned. This is a great way to meet others from, or interested in, the area that will be very happy to reminisce with you.
- **Share your experience** with the Brandeis Community. Connect with other students who have a global perspective and perhaps lead an event of your own:
 - **Volunteer** to serve as a reference to future study abroad students (Fill out the Volunteer Information Sheet online: <http://www.brandeis.edu/acserv/abroad/back/volunteer-sheet.html>)
 - **Join a campus group** where you will find others who share your interests. (Examples: *Charlamos*, The Salsa Club, International Club, Positive Foundations, etc., see a full list here: <http://www.brandeis.edu/globalbrandeis/people/organizations.html>)
 - Continue to **meet with other returnees**, keep it informal or create a club
 - **Submit photos** to the Study Abroad Photo Contest (details available in September)
 - **Get involved** with the Intercultural Center, Community-Engaged Learning Projects, etc.
 - **Sign up** for the Global Brandeis listserv (<http://www.brandeis.edu/globalbrandeis/index.html>)
- **Connect with the international community beyond campus** through volunteering and classes that involve community interaction:
 - Community-Engaged & Service Learning: <http://www.brandeis.edu/community-engaged/>
 - Experiential Learning: <http://www.brandeis.edu/experientiallearning/>
 - Volunteering: <http://people.brandeis.edu/~walthamgroup/>
- **Go abroad again.** Examples of funding and information sources:
 - **Summer Research** through Academic Departments (example: LALS offers the Jane's Travel Grant to send students to Latin America for undergrad research. See a listing in the Global Brandeis Portal: <http://www.brandeis.edu/globalbrandeis/study/fellowships.html>)
 - **Research through fellowships** (info. on fellowships and scholarships available while you are still in school and post-graduate opportunities: <http://www.brandeis.edu/acserv/fellowships/>)
 - **Summer Internships** (several funding sources exist for internships: <http://www.brandeis.edu/hiatt/students/funding/index.html>)
 - **Work or Volunteer** (Hiatt has a Web site for international opportunities: <http://www.brandeis.edu/hiatt/students/experiential/international/index.html>)