

## Quick Overview of Course Approvals from Study Away for Advisors/Departments

### Credits/Grades from Study Away

All courses that appear on a student's host transcript will come back to UAF with their equivalent grades; credits and grades will impact student GPA and Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements. All credits are counted as UAF resident credits. Study away credits are treated the same as UAF credits (i.e. rules regarding inclusion/exclusion).

International grade equivalents are based on WES guidelines or study abroad provider equivalency guides. Credit equivalents vary based on country and/or institution, but guides can be provided by International Programs & Initiatives on request.

### Common Credit Conversions

Common credit equivalencies:

2 ECTS = 1 UAF credit

15 contact hours = 1 UAF credit

Credits from U.S. institutions on a quarter system are usually converted to semester credits by multiplying the number of quarter credits by 0.667.

### What can courses count as?

Course equivalencies are determined by UAF department approval with use of the Advising Agreements. Departments can approve courses as particular UAF courses listed in the catalog or as -96 courses at the appropriate level. If a course is approved as a specific UAF course, all attributes of that UAF course are also applied (for example, W or O components). A study away course evaluated as a specific UAF course can exclude prior attempts of that class at UAF.

If not approved as a specific UAF course, they can be evaluated as -96 courses (196, 296, 396, 496, 696). Departments can approve these -96 courses to fulfill/replace other degree-requirements (major or minor) with petition or indication on the Advising Agreement.

Courses can also fulfil GER/CORE requirements. International Programs & Initiatives or the Office of the Registrar can evaluate courses for GER equivalents. These type of courses tend to give students the most flexibility, and generally follow the table of GER substitutions:

<http://catalog.uaf.edu/getting-started/transferring-credits/#NonUAINstitutions>.

For example:

- If a student took Hawaiian Coral Reefs **with lab** at University of Hawaii Hilo, it can count as a Natural Resources GER, posting as MSL F196
- If a student took a course in Danish Culture at Roskilde University, it could count as a humanities GER, posting as HUM F196

It is **the student's responsibility** to provide the following to departments when they are requesting equivalencies:

- Completed Advising Agreement
- Course descriptions, at minimum
- Credit and grade equivalency guidelines provided by our office
- Some departments may require additional information:
  - Course syllabus, course assignments, etc. for the department to make a better evaluation, such as regarding the appropriate level (lower-division or upper-division)
  - Host transcript (a copy is provided by IPI when received)

### **Timeline for Posting of Credit**

All credits and grades from the host transcript will appear on student accounts eventually; the timeline varies depending on the program:

- NSE: credits appear after we have received an official transcript from their semester away. Any courses that appear on the transcript that do not have an Advising Agreement on file will be evaluated by the Registrar at their discretion.
- International: Students have one year from their final semester away to evaluate their credits. If we do not receive evaluations by the end of the 1st year, evaluations will be determined by the Registrar.

We cannot post credits to a student's account until we receive the official transcript from the host institution. Sometimes, transcripts take several months before arriving to UAF; if students need documentation for Satisfactory Academic Progress, scholarships, pre-requisites, etc., our office can produce a memo in support, but students must notify us of this request.

If a student does not care how a course counts towards their degree upon their return, they do not need to fill out an advising agreement. However, they need to let our office know in writing they do not intend to complete an advising agreement for that course.

**It is important that all advising agreements/approvals for study away equivalencies arrive to IPI after all required signatures are collected; our office is the final destination. Our office produces paperwork for the Registrar so that the credits post appropriately.**

### **Additional Resources**

Advising agreement forms and additional instructions: <https://studyabroad.uaf.edu/?go=CreditTransfer>

Transfer Credit Resource Site: [https://uaonline.alaska.edu/banprod/owa/bwsk2tcr.P\\_Tcs\\_Search](https://uaonline.alaska.edu/banprod/owa/bwsk2tcr.P_Tcs_Search)

International Equivalency Info for certain programs: <https://studyabroad.uaf.edu/?go=IntlCredit>

Additional International Grade Equivalencies: <https://applications.wes.org/country-resources/>

### **Contact Details**

Nicole Balazs, Study Away Advisor

Exchange / Study Abroad / National Student Exchange

International Programs & Initiatives, University of Alaska Fairbanks

218 Eielson Building, PO Box 757760

studyabroad.uaf.edu