



www.gilmanscholarship.org

## TIPS FOR CREATING YOUR STUDY ABROAD ELEVATOR SPEECH

*Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful experience abroad.*

*Now that you have completed your program, you may find that it can be challenging to succinctly explain your experience abroad, with the exception of those who have had similar experiences. You may only have a very short amount of time to sum up your experience and oftentimes, people may not be interested in or able to understand the full impact of your experience. We recommend thinking about how you can highlight your experience in a 30-60 second "elevator speech".*

### **Brainstorm questions\*:**

It's important to take the time to reflect on the value of your international experience, rather than simply respond "it was awesome!" every time someone asks you about it. WHY was it awesome? Here are some questions to begin your brainstorming process:

1. What three words come to mind when you think about your time abroad?
2. What do you feel people most misunderstand about your time abroad?
3. What personal and professional skills did you gain as a result of being abroad?
4. How have you changed now that it's over and you're back home?
5. What's one thing you wish you had done differently? How would that have impacted your study abroad experience?
6. What was unexpected during your time abroad?

### **Tips/guidelines for telling your story in 60 seconds or less\*:**

1. Keep it simple – an effective elevator speech doesn't need to go into too many details
2. Attention-grabbing – assume that your audience is looking for a reason to tune out. Don't let them!
3. Make sure to articulate how much you learned and the skills you gained
4. Explain the impact of your international experience on what you are accomplishing now and/or working towards in the future
5. Make sure to practice your speech out loud until you can deliver it confidently. This will come in handy in both your personal and professional encounters!

### **Additional resources:**

- [\\*Wowing your employers: Telling your pitch in 30 seconds or less](#)
- [\\*From Around the World to Finding the Words: Telling Your Study Abroad Story](#)
- [\\*Telling your Study Abroad Story: Developing Your International Elevator Speech](#)
- [Elevator Pitch 101](#)
- [Elevator Speech](#)
- [Great Career Success Debate: Building the killer elevator pitch](#)
- [Sample Elevator Speech](#)
- [Sample Elevator Speech](#)



The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship is a program of the U.S. Department of State, supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education (IIE).