FAQ’s for IBEP Applicants

Program Requirements & Student Eligibility
Q: Do I need to be fluent in the language spoken in the country I study in?
No - Knowledge of a foreign language is typically not required, since 99 percent of the partner schools provide coursework in English. That said, it is helpful to have the local language for participation at the following partner schools: FGV (Brazil), ITAM (Mexico), Peking University (China).

Q: How many required courses must I complete in order to apply?
Short-term IBEP applicants must have completed 2 Booth courses prior to applying and 6 Booth courses prior to studying abroad.
Full-term IBEP applicants must have completed 3 Booth courses prior to applying and 10 Booth courses prior to studying abroad.

Q: Is there a GPA requirement in order to be considered for the program?
No, we do not have a definitive GPA requirement for IBEP, however, most students who have been nominated in the past have held at least a 3.0 GPA.

Course Credit
Q: Where can I find out how many courses constitute a full course load at my particular school of interest?
Yes, you can locate each partner school’s full course load requirement under the school-specific bios on the International Programs’ website.

Q: Will my host school provide a transcript for me?
Yes; a transcript will be sent to the International Programs office and then forwarded to you for your records.

Q: If I go on the short-term IBEP Program, may I still use one of my pass/fail options for a Chicago Booth course?
Yes, you would still have one pass/fail course option at Booth.

Quarter of Study for IBEP
Q: Is IBEP available during the Autumn or Spring quarters?
Yes, many Evening and Weekend MBA students take advantage of these terms to study abroad. Typically, Full-time MBA students will study abroad during winter quarter as it falls after on-campus recruiting and before graduation quarter.

Q: Can I study abroad during my last quarter at Booth?
Yes, students are able to participate in short-term and full-term IBEP during their last quarter. However, students who participate in IBEP during their last quarter must delay their official graduation by one quarter. For instance, if you go abroad during autumn quarter then you would graduate at the end of winter quarter.

Q: Can I use my Take Three option with IBEP?
No, IBEP must be part of your program of study.
Q: Are there additional fees associated with IBEP?
Yes, while you pay tuition at Booth, there are additional fees associated with IBEP on a per school bases:

**Short-term IBEP:** Students pay tuition to Booth for one course. Additionally, students must pay the program fee directly to the host school. Program fees cover the cost of running the program and some include accommodation, intercity transportation, etc. Students are also responsible for their international airfare. Program fees are listed under the Short-term IBEP program section of the International Programs’ website.

**Full-term IBEP:** Students are responsible for their international airfare, housing and food abroad, etc.

**IBEP School Research**

**Q: How do I research the IBEP schools in which I’m interested?**
Students should first make an appointment to reserve the International Programs Resource Library.

**Q: Do partner schools allow IBEP participants to take advantage of their on-campus resources, such as career services and alumni networks?**
Students should not depend on having access to a partner school’s career services or gaining alumni access during or after the term abroad finishes.

**Q: What are the most popular schools for study abroad?**
In recent years, the most competitive schools have been LBS, LSE, IESE, ESADE, and HKUST. Beyond that, various ‘hot spots’ emerge each year based on word-of-mouth, geography, emerging business trends or students’ career interests.

**Q: Can I bring my family with me? Do host schools help IBEP students find adequate housing?**
Yes, previous IBEP participants have studied abroad with their families. The level of support with securing accommodation abroad varies according to the partner school.

**Application Procedure**

**Q: Is it possible for me to review how many spots are available at each school before applying?**
International Programs does not publish the number of spots available at each partner school as they can vary from year-to-year. Overall, IBEP is a very competitive program so each applicant should submit a thorough and complete application with alternates.

**Q: Is it hard to get a spot at your first-choice school for study abroad?**
Students who know what they want to get out of their study abroad experience and who make a unique case about themselves as an applicant have a much better chance than students who limit their choice of schools.

**Q: May I apply to study abroad in my home country?**
No, students are not eligible to study abroad in their home country.

**Deposit & Withdrawal Policy**

**Q: What penalties are incurred if I withdraw from the program?**
To confirm participation in short-term and full-term IBEP, students must submit a $2000 non-refundable deposit. Deposited funds will be applied toward tuition for the quarter abroad. Withdrawing from the program after deposit deadlines will result in 100% forfeit of the deposited funds of $2000.
Students are expected to have a strong commitment to participation in IBEP. As such, students who confirm participation in short-term and full-term IBEP are not allowed to bid on courses at Booth simultaneously. Students who withdraw from IBEP after accepting an offer may only participate at Booth bidding beginning Phase 4 for the upcoming quarter.