**FILING TAXES WHILE ABROAD**

As an American student studying abroad you have a couple of different options (see documentation below). These options include:

* Filing for a 2 month or a 6 month extension. See notes below.
* File your tax return on-line. This is the option that most students are taking. Typically students filing the short form can make use of free software to file on-line.  All they need is their W-2 which many companies provide electronically or you can have your parents take a picture of your W-2 forms and send them to you. If you google “file taxes online for free) you will get lots of options such as this:

<https://www.irs.gov/uac/Free-File:-Do-Your-Federal-Taxes-for-Free>

For more information google tax filing and study abroad. Here is some additional information.

U.S. Students in an International Study Abroad Program

* **Where to File**: If you will be out of the country when it comes time to file your U.S. tax return, you can always file at an American embassy or online. If you do not have a job while studying abroad, you won't have to file anything for your time overseas, but you can use your travel abroad as a tax deduction for educational expenses.
* **When to File**: If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien residing overseas, or are in the military on duty outside the U.S., on the regular due date of your return, you are allowed an [automatic 2-month extension](https://www.irs.gov/Individuals/International-Taxpayers/U.S.-Citizens-and-Resident-Aliens-Abroad---Automatic-2-Month-Extension-of-Time-to-File) to file your return and pay any amount due without requesting an extension. For a calendar year return, the automatic 2-month extension is to June 15. If you qualify for this 2-month extension, penalties for paying any tax late are assessed from the 2-month extended due date of the payment (June 15 for calendar year taxpayers). However, even if you are allowed an extension, you will have to pay interest on any tax not paid by the regular due date of your return (April 15 for calendar year taxpayers). If you qualify for the 2-month extension but are unable to file your return by the automatic 2-month extension date, you can request an additional extension to October 15 by filing [Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time To File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return](https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f4868.pdf), before the automatic 2-month extension date. However, if you qualify for the 2-month extension, penalties for paying any tax late are assessed from the extended due date of the payment (June 15 for calendar year taxpayers). Otherwise, if you do not qualify for the 2-month extension, penalties for paying late are assessed from the original due date of your return (April 15 for calendar year taxpayers). Also, even if you are allowed extensions to June 15 and/or October 15, you will owe interest on any unpaid tax amount from the original due date of the return (April 15 for calendar year taxpayers).