

Study Abroad: Reflection Paper Guidelines

We hope that your time abroad is enriching --- academically, socially, and culturally. Part of a successful study abroad experience is the ability to critically reflect on that experience and articulate it well to others. Consequently, in order to complete the language and culture requirement of the core curriculum through study abroad, you must write a reflection paper.

Although there is no page limit on this paper, in order to adequately reflect on the cultural aspects of your experience a minimum four double-spaced page reflection paper is required. College-level writing that has been spell-checked and proof read is expected. **This paper is due the first day of the semester following the conclusion of the Study Abroad program.**

Preparation

1. Plan in advance for this paper by keeping a journal, mementos, or correspondence.
2. Spend some time brainstorming: review specific events, striking conversations, sights, sounds, and even smells.
3. Try to sum up your experience in a sentence or two. Is there a word, phrase, or theme that captures it?

Analysis

In your paper reflect on some or all of the following questions:

- In what ways is the culture where you studied different from your own?
- How is this culture similar to your own?
- What, if anything, shocked you?
- How does this culture define "learning" or "knowledge"?
- How have cultural differences made you more aware of your own culture---of its benefits, limitations, strengths, or biases?
- In what ways might your own culture/society benefit by learning from that of others, specifically from the one in which you studied?
- How do cultural differences allow others to view you differently than you view yourself?

You **must** address the following question:

How might your experience abroad affect your future --- with regard to academic, social, career, and/or personal choices?