

Student Worksheet - Choosing an Off-Campus Study Program

Name

Your answers to these questions will help determine which type of off-campus study programs might best match your goals, interests and academic needs. We recommend you complete this worksheet before you meet with someone in Off-Campus Study. If you are interested in meeting with someone in OCS please list a few times during the week you are available.

Initial Research

Which of the following have you done to research off-campus opportunities?

- Met with your academic adviser.
- Attended an OCS or program info session.
- Researched programs on-line.
- Talked with campus program advisers.
- None of the above.

Academics

Do you want to?

- Take in depth courses in your intended or declared major(s).
- Complement your course of studies here on campus.
- Explore a a new subject for the semester.
- Master a foreign language.
- Conduct independent research, an internship, service learning or volunteer.
- Take courses not available at Grinnell.
- Experience a different education system.
- Gain a different perspective on your intended or declared major.
- Other

Do you need to complete major requirements while abroad?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes above please, provide detail below.

Please let us know your intended major, declared major or double majors.

What type of experience are you seeking? Check as many as apply.

Immersion experience in a university setting with courses taught in English.

Immersion experience in a university setting with courses taught in a foreign language.

Language intensive program.

Thematic program. (i.e. science, arts, human rights, development, global health, etc.)

Field based experience.

Classes offered at a study center for U.S. study abroad students.

Internship program.

Does your GPA qualify you for the program in which you are interested? Grinnell requires 2.75 for off-campus study but this may be discussed.

Yes

No

Do you have any concerns regarding the GPA requirement?

Yes

No

Language

Do you want to take classes in English?

Yes

No

Are you willing to study the local language as part of learning the culture?

Note: Grinnell requires you to take a local language course if it is offered.

Yes

No

Is it important for you to improve your language skills?

Yes

No

Are you interested in achieving fluency?

Yes

No

Do you want to or are you able to take all your courses in the host country language?

Yes

No

What language(s) have you studied?

What course level have you or will you have completed by the time you go abroad?

WHEN TO GO

Which semester would you like to go?

fall

spring

no preference

academic year program (only 4 programs are currently approved)

Is your chosen program offered in both fall and spring?

Yes

No

Do you you want to keep your summer free for work, an internship or other plans?

Yes

No

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Do you want to continue with a small liberal arts experience abroad or try something different?

Do you prefer the support of a resident director (or hands on program staff) or would you prefer the experience of handling co-curricular activities or travel on your own?

To what type(s) of learning environment are you open? Check all that apply.

- traditional classroom setting
- field based learning
- conducting an independent study project
- large lecture style classes
- small seminar style classes

Are you comfortable directing your own learning experience? In the U.S. students are often instructed what they should read and research. Many foreign universities expect students to take a more independent approach to their learning. For example, students are given a starting point and suggestions for further reading, but there is usually a strong emphasis on private study.

- Yes
- No

Would you prefer a high level of support from a study abroad program? Support could include in-country staff, arranged housing and excursions, assistance with visa processing, etc.

- Yes
- No

How comfortable are you with true independence? For example, some programs would require you be responsible for seeking out help if you need it, arranging your own activities or excursions or housing.

Would you prefer?

- large program/community
- small program/community

Would you prefer to take classes with...?

- other American students
- other (international) study abroad students
- host-country students
- a combination of students

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Which living arrangements appeal to you the most?

- with a host family
- with other study abroad students
- with students from host country
- other

How important is it for you to be involved with local culture and people?

How do you envision yourself spending your days? Who would you most like to meet? In some programs, you may get to know a number of community members, while others may offer more opportunities to meet other students.

LOCATION

Is there a country or region in which you are academically or culturally interested?

What type of location do you prefer?

- big city
- small city
- rural area

MAIN GOALS

Why do you want to study abroad?

What do you hope to accomplish and/or gain academically and personally while studying abroad?

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Which of the following factors may affect your location or program choice?

- course availability
- program start and end dates
- dietary or travel restrictions
- specific housing option (home stay or dorm)
- disability services and accommodations
- access to physical and/or mental health care professionals
- financial considerations
- other

What prior international experiences have you had?

What do you think will be your greatest challenges living in another culture, and how would you prepare yourself for these challenges? For example, how adaptable are you to unfamiliar places, routines, foods, etc? How flexible are you about disruptions and delays to schedules and plans?

What extra-curricular/personal interests do you wish to pursue while you are off-campus?

Have you discussed off campus study with your family or parents?

Yes

No

Does your family have any concerns about your plans?

Yes

No

Do you have any medical or mental health issues that need to be considered when selecting a study site? If you have a disability that may affect your participation, we can assist with identifying viable options but it is your right to disclose this after your approval from Grinnell.

What other needs, preferences, interests and habits you need to consider when choosing a location and program? Examples could include identity (race, gender or sexuality), allergies, food preferences, low tolerance of noise/pollution, need for privacy, interests, etc.

Is cost a factor in your ability to study off-campus? Consider tuition/, housing, food, personal expenses and travel.

yes

no

Have you looked into scholarship opportunities?

yes

no

Have you met or are planning on meeting with Financial Aid?

yes

no

If you are an international student, have you researched visa requirements for programs of interest?

yes

no

What questions do you have about studying off campus?

What programs interest you?