# Student Worksheet for Exploring Off-Campus Study Programs

Your answers to these questions will help determine which type of off-campus study program might best match your goals, interests and academic background. We strongly encourage you to complete it and bring a copy with you when you meet with advisers to discuss program options.

## INITIAL RESEARCH

Which of the following have you done to research off-campus study opportunities? (Check all that apply).

* Met with your academic advisor
* Attended an OCS or program info session
* Met with OCS staff
* Talked to study abroad returnees
* Researched programs online
* Talked with campus program advisors
* Other. Please explain.

## ACADEMICS

Do you want to (Check all that apply)

* Take in-depth courses in your intended or declared major(s).
* Complement your course of studies here on campus
* Explore an interest area outside my intended or declared major
* Explore a new subject for a semester
* Master or learn a foreign language
* Conduct independent research or fieldwork
* Do an internship
* Pursue an academic service learning experience
* Take liberal arts courses not available at Grinnell
* Experience a different education system
* Gain a different perspective on your intended or declared major
* Other. Please explain.

Do you need to complete major requirements while off-campus? Yes or No

Do you need to complete credits in your major while off-campus? Yes or No. If yes, list requirement(s).

Is there a specific academic focus you are interested in pursuing? Yes or No. If yes, which focus:

What type of experience are you seeking? (Check all that 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
* Classes offered at a study center for study abroad students from U.S. institutions
* A combination of classes at a study center with direct enrollment in a local university
* Language intensive program
* Thematic program (i.e, science, arts, human rights, development, global health, etc.)
* Field-based experience

Does your GPA qualify you for the program(s) in which you are interested? Yes, No or Do not know.

## LANGUAGE

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

What language(s) have you studied?

What course level have you/will you have completed by the time you go off-campus?

Are you interested in continuing to study the language(s) while off-campus and, if so, are you capable of taking all of your courses in the host country language?

## WHEN TO GO

How much time would you like to spend off-campus?

* Fall
* Spring
* Either semester
* Full Year at 1 site (*You must have the support of your academic advisor*)
* Full year at 2 sites (*Approval is seldom granted; there may be visa issues*)

Is your chosen program available for either semester? Yes, No or Do not know.

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Are you comfortable directing your own learning experience? Yes, No or Maybe.

*Note: In the US, students are often instructed as to what they should read and research, and assessment takes place on a regular basis. 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.*

Would you prefer a high level of support from a program? Yes, No, or Maybe.

*Note: Support could include a resident director or hands-on in‐country staff, arranged housing and excursions, assistance with course registration, visa advice, help with the program application process, etc.*

What type of program do you prefer?

* large program/community
* small program/community
* no preference

With whom do you want to take classes? (Check all that apply)

* Other study abroad students
* International students
* Host-country students
* Combination

## LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Which living arrangements appeal to you the most? (Check all the apply)

* Host family
* Housing with other study abroad or international students
* Housing with students from host country
* Not an important factor in program choice
* Other. Please explain.

How engaged do you want to be with the local community and culture, and what steps would you take to connect with others?

## LOCATION

Are there countries or regions in which you are most academically and culturally interested?

What type of location do you prefer?

* Large city
* Mid-sized city
* Small city
* Rural area

## MAIN GOALS

Why do you want to study off-campus? 2 or 3 sentences

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

Which program(s) interest you at this time?

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Which of the following factors may affect your location or program choice (Check all that apply; this optional information will not be taken into account during approval decisions but can help us help you identify programs that will be the best fit):

* Course availability
* Program start and end dates (*programs in the S. Hemisphere have different academic calendars*)
* Dietary or travel restrictions
* Specific housing option (homestay, dorm, apartment, etc.)
* Disability services and accommodations
* Access to physical and/or mental health care professionals
* Identity and inclusion
* Program costs, financial aid, scholarships
* International student status (visa considerations)
* Other. Please explain.

What prior global experiences have you had, domestically or abroad?

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 away?

What questions do you have about studying off-campus?

NOTES