

Study Abroad Learning Outcomes

Identity Goals

- Re-examine their values and priorities to become better contributors to the global community.
- Become culturally self-aware.
- Grow in maturity in their understanding of both religious and secular viewpoints and be able to compare and contrast them in both their perceived home and host culture.
- Learn to accurately and diplomatically represent their perceived home culture.
- Learn to examine their own actions in terms of personal responsibility and ethical, social and environmental consequences.

Cross Cultural Goals

- Appreciate that there are differences between cultures and develop open-mindedness and respect for differences in culture.
- Move from ethno-centricity to ethno-relativism in order to better understand different cultures.
- Develop sensitivity to the concerns of under-represented, minority or indigenous peoples throughout the world.
- Understand the diversity of the host society and better understand the diversity in our own society.
- Appreciate subtle (and not-so-subtle) differences in social mores, the function and deployment of humor, and what is deemed “acceptable”.
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills in the areas of cultural analysis and intercultural understanding.

Academic Goals

- Develop a better understanding of global issues.
- Gain an understanding of the host society including its politics, economy, society, history, identity and culture.
- Develop a deeper sense of political difference across cultures, and how the US is perceived abroad.
- Develop skills and academic and professional abilities applicable for use in regional and global contexts.
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills in the areas of cultural analysis and intercultural understanding.
- Develop an openness to differing viewpoints on controversial topics and be able to form and share their own opinions.
- Increase their levels of independence and confidence when it comes to researching and seeking out local resources

Professional and Life-Long goals

- Improve their problem solving skills by developing empathy for others and a trans-cultural perspective.
- Improve their ability to bridge social-economic differences with their U.S. peers.
- Develop skills and academic and professional abilities applicable for use in regional and global contexts.

Language Learning Goals

- Gain independence from English and incorporate the host language into daily communicative strategies and performance.
- Communicate effectively with people in the target culture in their own language.
- Expand communication skills by finding creative ways to navigate around communication barriers.
- Develop an understanding of non-verbal cues of communication used in daily interactions.