The Exploring Diversity Initiative

Petition for EDI Credit for Study Abroad
(August 2016)

Deadlines for EDI Essay Submission

Full Year and Spring Semester Study Away: June 30**
Fall Study Away: Last day of Winter Study**

Should you wish to meet the Exploring Diversity Initiative requirement through the completion of study away, please read carefully the full description of the EDI requirement on page 2 of this document and complete the following questions, attaching to this form your essay giving an intellectual perspective on the study away course or independent study project/research which will allow you to fulfill the EDI requirement.

Your name: _________________________________________________  Your class: ____________

The name of your study away program, if applicable:
___________________________________________________________________________________

The university and location of your program: ____________________________________________

The semester & year of the program for which you are seeking EDI credit: ________________

The course or independent study project/research which you intend to seek EDI credit:
(If a course, please submit a course syllabus with your essay.)
__________________________________________________________________________________

**Deadline: For students studying on programs in Australia and New Zealand ending in July or fall semester students returning after Winter Study: You will be required to notify the International Education and Study Away Office (studyaway@williams.edu) immediately at the end of your program your intent to submit an essay for EDI credit. You will be given 30 days to submit. Follow the instructions below for submitting.

On a separate sheet of paper, please attach to this completed form an essay of at least 250 words explaining, according to the criteria listed on page 2, why you believe that your course or independent study project/research met the various criteria elaborated in the Exploring Diversity Initiative.

To be eligible to receive EDI credit for your study away, please submit this form and your essay to the International Education and Study Away Office by the deadlines. Decisions will be made by the Director of the Exploring Diversity Initiative and the Committee on Academic Standing. The essay will either be accepted or rejected for EDI credit. There is no appeal process, and all decisions are final.
THE EXPLORING DIVERSITY INITIATIVE REQUIREMENT. Williams College is committed to creating and maintaining a curriculum, faculty, and student body that reflects and explores a diverse, globalized world and the multi-cultural character of the United States. Courses designated “(D)” in the College Bulletin are a part of the College’s Exploring Diversity Initiative (EDI); they represent our dedication to study groups, cultures, and societies as they interact with, and challenge, each other. Through such courses, students and faculty also consider the multiple approaches that engage these issues. Rather than simply focus on the study of specific peoples, cultures, or regions of the world, in the past or present, however, courses fulfilling the requirement actively promote a self-conscious and critical engagement with diversity. They urge students to consider the operations of difference in the world and provide them with the tools to do so. The ultimate aim of the requirement is to lay the groundwork for a life-long engagement with the diverse cultures, societies, and histories of the United States and the rest of the world.

Courses that comprise the Exploring Diversity Initiative may fall under a variety of categories, including (but not limited to) the following:

1. **Comparative Study of Cultures and Societies.** These courses focus on the differences and similarities between cultures and societies, and/or on the ways in which cultures, peoples, and societies have interacted and responded to one another in the past.

2. **Empathetic Understanding.** These courses explore diverse human feelings, thoughts, and actions by recreating the social, political, cultural, and historical context of a group in order to imagine why within that context, those beliefs, experiences, and actions of the group emerged.

3. **Power and Privilege.** These courses link issues of diversity to economic and political power relations, investigating how cultural interaction is influenced by various structures, institutions, or practices that enable, maintain, or mitigate inequality among different groups.

4. **Critical Theorization.** These courses focus on ways scholars theorize the possibilities of cross-cultural understanding and interaction; they investigate the ways that disciplines and paradigms of knowledge both constitute “difference” and are reconfigured by the study of diversity-related questions.

All students are required to complete ONE course that is part of the Exploring Diversity Initiative. Although this course, which may be counted toward the divisional distribution requirement, may be completed any semester before graduation, students are urged to complete the course by the end of the sophomore year.

Students wishing to fulfill the EDI requirement via the completion of study away must submit the completed EDI form and their essay after their return, proposing EDI credit for a course or independent study project/research they pursued while away. The essay will require students to intellectually describe how they believe their study away course or independent study project/research met one or more of the goals of the Exploring Diversity Initiative; the essay will be considered by the Director of the Exploring Diversity Initiative working in concert with the Committee on Academic Standing. The essay will either be accepted or rejected for EDI credit. There is no appeal process, and all decisions are final.