

STUDY AWAY ESSAY QUESTIONS

(Submit your Essay along with a hard copy of your Study Away Petition to the International Education and Study Away Office before March 1. If you do not submit an essay, your Study Away Petition will be considered incomplete and therefore withdrawn. If you are applying to WEPO, the Petition and Essay must be submitted by the WEPO deadline in February.)

Complete and submit your essay answering the following four parts on your program and goals, connection to studies, preparation for learning while away and non-academic challenges. If you plan to study on two different programs (fall and spring) please understand that you must complete two essays, one for each program. (If you are studying at a US school or Williams Mystic, exclude part 3.) Your essay should be approximately 500 words in total.

1. State 3-5 things you hope to have learned or be able to do by the end of your study away semester/year. Then describe the university or program you hope to attend. How will the program /university and its location help you to achieve your goals? What differences might you encounter in educational philosophy and delivery on your program/university?
2. How will the study away you propose build on your education to date as well as connect to your education when you return?
3. Study away requires knowledge about a country; it also requires the ability to learn in unstructured settings (experientially) and in unfamiliar environments (interculturally). Specify:
 - a) what you have already done to prepare,
 - b) identify what else you will do, and
 - c) explain how the knowledge and abilities have (or will have) prepared you.
4. As a study away student you will be a temporary sojourner in your host site(s.) Based on your research and conversation with past study away students, faculty and others, discuss how your social identity(national, socio-economic, educational, racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, gender, religious, political and so on) might influence your study away experience. Be specific in reference to the country or state you are going to. Address any other non-academic issues that you think might confront you and how you will address them.
5. Consider the length of time you intend to be away (semester or full year) and the challenges of leaving your family and Williams friends and possible significant other while being in a different culture and considerably more on your own.

Note: If you decide to change your study away program (after submitting your petition), a new essay must be submitted at that time. Remember, you can only make one program change to your petition.