



Study Abroad Participation Guidelines

Study abroad is one of the experiential learning experiences that Roanoke College is committed to providing our students. We believe in the value of real-world learning which comes out of these experiential opportunities. Time spent abroad in another culture helps students to broaden their perspective, step out of their comfort zone, develop a greater sense of independence and confidence, and increase their intercultural competency: all of these skills enhance student development which reflects Roanoke College's mission of preparing students for responsible lives of learning, service and leadership in what has now become a truly global context.

Beyond encouraging students to simply have a study abroad experience, it is equally important that we assess student learning that results from the experience and support this learning through opportunities for students to process, reflect upon, and articulate the meaning of the experience. Therefore, we have instituted participation guidelines for all students who study abroad as follows:

REQUIRED PARTICIPATION

1. Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) Assessment

- a. All students who study abroad are **required** to take the IDI assessment, which is a two-part process. There is an online questionnaire that must be completed BEFORE departure. Results from this questionnaire are reviewed in the pre-departure orientation. AFTER returning from studying abroad, students must retake the online questionnaire and complete a second short reflection essay. ***Students who study abroad will have a hold on their student record until BOTH PARTS of the IDI assessment are complete.*** This hold does not impede housing selection or registration, but you will not be able to transfer back any credits from your study abroad program until you have completed the two-part assessment and the hold has been removed.

2. Pre-Departure Orientation

- a. All students who will be studying abroad are **required** to attend pre-departure orientation training, which includes important information about travel, health, and safety, culture shock and adjustment strategies, intercultural competency skills and review of the IDI assessment. The pre-departure orientation is offered towards the end of each semester. **Students must attend the training.**

3. Re-Entry Programming

- a. Study abroad students continually report that their time abroad was a transformative experience. For many students it can be challenging to reconcile their experiences with their daily routine back here in the States. Re-entry programming is offered to help ease your transition back home. **Students are required to participate in the Welcome Back Re-entry Reception.**

EXPECTED PARTICIPATION

4. ROA218/219: Digital Storytelling for Global Learning I/II

- a. This is a 1 unit course designed for students who will study abroad. The course begins the semester before you study abroad with class meetings that lay the foundation for thinking about culture, identity, and narration of experience. It continues the semester you are studying abroad with reading and writing assignments that support your experience, and a project that encourages

deeper interaction with the local culture. It ends the semester you return back to campus with class meetings to help you reflect on your experience abroad and articulate its meaning through the production of a digital story. Once you have been approved for a study abroad program, you will be contacted with enrollment details. Although this is not a required course, students who study abroad are expected to enroll.

5. Re-entry Programming

- a. We offer a series of additional events and resources for study abroad returnees designed to help you reflect on your time abroad and to translate this experience into academic, personal, and career growth. Events offered include: Digital Storytelling Workshops, Reflection Sessions, and a Resume Workshop.

6. Showcase Event

- a. This event organized by the Office of Experiential Learning happens every fall semester during Family Weekend. The Showcase is an opportunity for students to share their experiential learning with the rest of campus. Students who have studied abroad are expected to participate by presenting a poster board that describes their experience and expresses what they have learned from studying abroad. Returnees from study abroad will be contacted about participation in this event.

7. Study Abroad Fair

- a. This is an opportunity to give back to the college and your peers by sharing information about your study abroad program and encouraging other students to study abroad. The fair occurs every September. Study abroad returnees will be contacted about participation; they are expected to represent their program at this event.

OPTIONAL PARTICIPATION

1. International Education Week (IEW)

- a. Programming for IEW occurs every November. IEW's mission to raise awareness about international education and encourage exchange of ideas across cultures. Students who have studied abroad are encouraged to participate by presenting on their experiences.

2. International Festival

- a. The Spring Festival is a wonderful celebration of world cultures on our campus. This event provides an opportunity for international students and study abroad returnees to come together with food, music, dance, arts, and games that express the dynamic and vibrant cultures around the world.

3. Peer Partner Program

- a. This program is designed to facilitate friendship and social interaction between new international students and American students. It is a great opportunity for study abroad returnees to stay culturally connected by getting to know the international students on the Roanoke campus. The program offers meetings and outings so students can get to know each other.

4. Global Residence Hall

- a. The global residence hall is themed housing designed for international students and American students to live together to cultivate a community of globally-minded citizens. Often touted as the "mini U.N" on campus with a strong sense of community, this is a great housing option for study abroad returnees to stay culturally connected.

5. Student Global Council

- a. Student Global Council members are returned study abroad students who volunteer for outreach activities and serve as returnee contacts for their program. Council members aid IE staff in the development of effective study abroad policies and procedures as well as promote study abroad and serve as resources for their fellow students who will participate in international experiences.