



Tips on Writing a Personal Statement for Study Abroad

A personal statement is a way to show the reader who you truly are. This is your “interview” to be considered for studying abroad. The essay is to show how personal events of your life have shaped you into the person you are today and how this has made you capable of studying abroad in a different country. You need to be open to sharing personal information about your life in order to help the reader see your true personality beyond the application.

TO DO

- Do brainstorm about events from your life that have impacted you.
- Do make an outline before writing the essay.
- Do have an eye-catching introduction.
- Do make sure you answer the question(s) on the application.
- Do make sure your essay has a point and connects together. Tell a story.
- Do include any previous abroad experiences.
- Do say why you want to study abroad and why in a particular area.
- Do mention your personal, academic, and career goals.
- Do explain how study abroad will impact your future.
- Do be sincere, open, and creative.
- Do stay positive.
- Do use 12-Font Times New Roman and double-space!
- Do proofread! Have others proofread (Writing Center/Center for Global Studies).

NOT TO DO

- Do not have generalizations, misspellings, or other grammatical errors.
- Do not focus on quantity, but focus on quality.
- Do not exceed the page or word limit.
- Do not repeat yourself.
- Do not be impersonal. This is to be all about you!
- Do not use the thesaurus. Be clear and direct.
- Do not use phrases such as “I can save the world someday by going here”
- Do not brag about yourself. Be careful.
- Do not be negative.
- Do not only say that you want to go abroad in order to have fun.