

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE,
Guidelines for Study Abroad Applications

The majority of your statement should be WHY you want to go abroad...

To experience another culture and learn their language

The opportunity to see another part of the world; perhaps the opportunity to see America
in a different light

To realize the diversity and also the similarities of this world

Specifically, emphasis should be placed on more personal ideas, such as...

Why did you choose that specific institution and courses?

How will this experience benefit you personally, professionally, and academically?

(Does this help you reach future goals of yours? If so, how?)

A little about what makes you a good participant may be helpful...

Past experiences working abroad/studying abroad/traveling abroad

What did you learn about yourself? About others? About others' opinions of you as
an American?

Experiences with abroad students at home—Are you an international 'buddy'?

Foreign language?

Classes about diversity, sociology, etc?

Personality—are you independent? Are you willing to try new things? Open to new
thoughts/opinions? Do you have desire, enthusiasm?

Note: If you have borderline grades, the statement of purpose will be extremely important! You
will need to explain circumstances for the grades and prove yourself a qualified participant.

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