



Experiential Learning or Global Inquiry General Education Contract For Education Abroad Students

Each UMW approved education abroad program can fulfill the general education requirement for either Experiential Learning (EL) or Global Inquiry (GI), but not both. To fulfill the requirement, you must submit a written reflection for evaluation by a UMW faculty member. See guidelines on reverse.

Upon submission of this contract **PRIOR to departing** for an international experience, students will be registered in the UMW Course **SAGE 000**. The faculty sponsor will grade this zero-credit course on a Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory basis.

Student Name _____ **Banner ID** _____

Faculty Sponsor _____

Applying for _____ **Experiential Learning (EL)** OR _____ **Global Inquiry (GI)**

Based on _____ **UMW Sponsored** or _____ **UMW Approved Education Abroad Experience**

Program Name _____

Program Country _____

Program Beginning and Ending Dates _____

Complete Box A or Box B below, as appropriate for your program type.

A. For programs offered for credit at an international university: SAGE 000 will appear on the course schedule for the student's first semester back on campus. EL or GI will be marked as fulfilled at the end of that semester, after completion of a satisfactory reflective paper.

First term student will be enrolled at UMW after return (Term/Year) _____

B. For programs offered for UMW credit: SAGE 000 will appear on the student's course list for the same semester as the UMW course is offered, and EL or GI will be marked as fulfilled at the end of the term with completion of a satisfactory reflective paper or project.

UMW Course Number, Term, Year _____

Student Signature _____ **Date:** _____

Faculty Signature _____ **Date:** _____

CIE Signature _____ **Date:** _____

SUBMIT TO CIE, LEE HALL ROOM 433, PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

Original to Registrar * Copy to CIE * Copy to Student * Copy Faculty Sponsor

Study Abroad: Reflection Guidelines

We hope that your time abroad is academically, socially, and culturally enriching. Part of a successful experience abroad is the ability to critically reflect on that experience and articulate it well to others. Consequently, in order to complete the general education requirement for either Experiential Learning or Global Inquiry through study abroad, you must:

- A. Submit the General Education Contract (see reverse) to CIE, Lee Hall 434, **PRIOR to departing.**
- B. Write a reflection paper as outlined below, or complete a written reflective project as assigned by your faculty sponsor.

Due Dates

- For programs taken for credit at an international university: This paper is due the first day of the semester following the conclusion of the Study Abroad program.
- For programs taken for UMW credit: This assignment is due on the last day of classes for the applicable UMW term.

Preparation

- Plan in advance for this paper by keeping a journal, mementos, or correspondence.
- Spend some time brainstorming: review specific events, striking conversations, sights, sounds, and even smells.
- Keep notes for this project while abroad. Keeping a record of your thoughts during your experience while they are fresh is key. Try to sum up your experience in a sentence or two each day. Is there a word, phrase, or theme that captures it?

Analysis

Although there is no page limit on this paper, in order to adequately reflect on the cultural aspects of your experience a **minimum four double-spaced page reflection paper** is required. College-level writing that has been spell-checked and proof read is expected.

In your paper reflect on some or all of the following questions:

- In what ways is the culture where you studied/traveled different from your own?
- How is this culture similar to your own?
- What, if anything, shocked you?
- How does this culture define “learning” or “knowledge”?
- How have cultural differences made you more aware of your own culture---of its benefits, limitations, strengths, or biases?
- In what ways might your own culture/society benefit by learning from that of others, specifically from the one in which you studied?
- How do cultural differences allow others to view you differently than you view yourself?
- What was the single most useful or meaningful thing you learned in this experience?
- What knowledge or skills acquired or developed while in college were most useful in this experience?
- What problems or struggles did you encounter in this experience, if any? If so, how did you solve them?
- In what areas would you most like to continue to strengthen your knowledge or skills?
- Describe to a potential employer the ways this experience shaped you to be a top candidate for a job in your field of interest.

You **must** address the following question:

- How might your experience abroad affect your future -- with regard to academic, social, career, and/or personal choices?