

Beyond the Classroom or Diverse and Global Perspectives General Education Contract for Education Abroad Students



Each UMW approved education abroad program can fulfill the general education requirement for either Beyond the Classroom (BTC) or Diverse and Global Perspectives (DGP), but not both. To fulfill the requirement, you must submit a written reflection for evaluation by a UMW Faculty member. See guidelines for reflection 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: 000 _____

Faculty Sponsor: _____

Applying for:

Participating in:

Program Name: _____

Program Location: _____

Program Start Date: _____

Program End Date: _____

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

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

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 BTC or DGP will be marked as fulfilled at the end of the term with completion of a satisfactory reflective assignment.

UMW Course Number, Term, Year _____

Student Signature _____ Date: _____

Faculty Signature _____ Date: _____

CIE Signature _____ Date: _____

SUBMIT CONTRACT TO CIE, LEE HALL 433 or CIE@UMW.EDU, PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

Education Abroad: Reflection Assignment Guidelines

CIE hopes 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 Beyond the Classroom or Diverse and Global Perspectives through education abroad, you must:

1. Submit the General Education Contract (see reverse) to CIE **PRIOR to departing**.
2. Write a reflection paper as outlined below, or complete a written reflective project, such as a vlog or photo journal, as discussed and agreed upon with your Faculty sponsor.

Deadlines:

- For programs offering transfer credit: reflection due by first day of the semester following the conclusion of the education abroad program.
- For programs offered for UMW credit: reflection due by the last day of classes for the applicable UMW term.

Tips for Reflection:

- Plan in advance for this assignment by keeping a journal, mementos, or correspondence throughout your time abroad.
- Spend time observing throughout your experience: review and record specific events, meaningful conversations, sights, sounds, and smells of your new environment, etc.

Analysis

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

In your assignment you should reflect on some or all of the following prompts:

Cultural Perspectives

- In what ways is the culture where you traveled similar to and different from your own? Discuss particular examples for each case.
- Discuss a time when the host country's culture shocked you or made you stop and reflect.
- While abroad, in what ways did you become more aware of your own culture's benefits, limitations, strengths, and biases?

Personal Values

- How were your personal values and beliefs challenged and/or changed during this experience?
- In what ways might your own culture/society benefit by learning from that of others, specifically from the one in which you were immersed?
- What was the single most useful or meaningful thing you learned through this experience?

Global Learning

Many employers highly value candidates who have had an education abroad experience, but only if the candidate shows how those experiences relate to their professional aspirations. How would you respond to a potential employer if they ask you these questions:

- What knowledge or skills acquired or developed while in college were most useful in this experience?
- Identify a problem or struggle that you encountered in this experience. How did you overcome it?
- After your time abroad, what are your strengths and weaknesses as they relate to your potential career field or academic discipline?
- What did you learn from your education abroad experience that would be valuable to us as your potential employer? Give a specific example.