

Scoring Guide for DU Study Abroad Nomination Essays

Below is the scoring guide used by the OIE to evaluate students' essay responses for nomination to DU Partner Programs and Unaffiliated Study Abroad Programs (AUP/ UPP). Your essay responses are an integral component of your application; they provide you the opportunity to demonstrate that you have thought through your goals for study abroad and have researched and selected appropriate program(s).

You must meet minimum eligibility requirements (i.e. GPA, major/minor requirements, language background, etc.) in order to be considered for a program. In addition to eligibility and essay responses, the overall quality of your application will be considered, including submission/ completion of any required supplemental application items, GPA, academic/ extracurricular fit, prior coursework completed, student conduct record, your intention to take advantage of unique program opportunities, and when applicable, a program's preferred or required majors/minors. Meeting the OIE early deadline will also provide for extra points and make your application more competitive.

1. Program Choice Essays:

- A. Discuss your academic goals and highlight the ways in which you feel your academics will be enriched through international study. How will this particular study abroad program contribute to your goals, build upon your education to date and connect to your studies when you return to campus? Please describe the classes you plan to take abroad and how the academic focus of this program relates to your major, minor, and/ or demonstrated academic interests.

Your essay will be evaluated based on you successfully conveying the following:

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| 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You clearly articulate in depth your academic goals.• You clearly highlight the ways in which your academics will be enriched through international study and the experience of living/ studying abroad.• You clearly articulate in depth how participation on this particular program contributes to those academic goals.• You've researched the program and fully convey accurate, specific knowledge of the programs' structure and academic offerings, and explain how these tie into your academic plan.• You provided examples of how this program builds upon your education to date.• You demonstrate how your studies abroad will enhance your studies at DU upon your return to campus.• You outline specific coursework you plan to take abroad.• You link the program to your major, minor or other demonstrated academic interests. |
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- Your essay is well-organized, clear and easy to follow, and free of grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors.
- Your writing demonstrates a sophisticated level of reflection and awareness and shows that you have thoughtfully engaged with the question.

If applying to an unaffiliated program (AUP/UPP), you must also successfully convey the following :

- You describe your research of the AUP/ UPP program, as well as your research surrounding DUPP options.
- You provide justification as to why the AUP/UPP program better suits your academic needs as compared to comparable DUPPs.

*****Remember that failure to provide strong and clear academic justification for an AUP/ UPP in place of a DUPP will result in your application being denied.*****

B. In addition to the academic goals you've discussed, please describe what you hope to gain from an international experience both personally and professionally. Outline how this program choice specifically fits with or would help you to achieve these goals. In answering this question, consider program elements- location, housing options, level of cultural immersion, engaged learning opportunities, program support, etc. - that you have found particularly attractive or well suited to meeting your needs.

Your essay will be evaluated based on you successfully conveying the following:

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- You clearly articulate in depth what you hope to gain personally from an international experience, providing at minimum one concrete in depth example or if less in depth, minimum two examples.
- You clearly articulate in depth what you hope to gain professionally from an international experience, providing at minimum one concrete in depth example or if less in depth, minimum two examples.
- You clearly outline how this particular program choice specifically fits with or would help you to achieve the personal goals you have discussed.
- You clearly outline how this particular program choice specifically fits with or would help you to achieve the professional goals you have discussed.
- You have identified different program elements for this program that you find to be particularly attractive or well suited to meeting your needs, providing at minimum one concrete in depth example or if less in depth, minimum two examples.
- Your essay is well-organized, clear and easy to follow, and free of grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors.
- Your writing demonstrates a sophisticated level of reflection and awareness and shows that you have thoughtfully engaged with the question.

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| | <p><i>If applying to an unaffiliated program (AUP/UPP), you must also successfully convey the following :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You describe your research of the AUP/ UPP program, as well as your research surrounding DUPP options. • You provide justification as to why the AUP/UPP program better suits your personal and/ or professional goals as compared to comparable DUPPs. |
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C. Challenges

What challenges might you face in study abroad that you have not already addressed in your previous essays? Consider your program selection(s) and aspects such as cultural differences, language barriers, level of program support, learning differences, finances, being away from home, etc. What skills and resources might you utilize to address these challenges? In answering this question, consider your comfort level in navigating issues independently and self-advocating while abroad.

Your essay will be evaluated based on you successfully conveying the following:

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| <p>10</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You clearly identify challenges that you might face in relation to studying and living abroad, providing at minimum one challenge in depth, or two or more other challenges if less in depth. • You demonstrate that you have thoroughly researched program structure and local culture and clearly articulate possible related challenges specific to the program(s) for which you are applying. • You address the different challenges that may present themselves, if your program choices and locations vary (in the areas presented in the question). • You discuss how you anticipate handling these challenges and what skills and resources you will draw upon. • You present thoughtful solutions to potential challenges. • You address your comfort level in navigating issues independently and self-advocating while abroad. • Your essay is well-organized, clear and easy to follow, and free of grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors. • Your writing demonstrates a sophisticated level of reflection and awareness and shows that you have thoughtfully engaged with the question. <p><i>If applying to an unaffiliated program (AUP/UPP), you must also successfully convey the following :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You discuss s how you are prepared to navigate an unaffiliated program with which DU has no formal affiliation • You address your ability to serve as the main conduit for researching and figuring out all program details, including visa and immigration requirements, housing, class registration, etc. |
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