

GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY
TRAVEL ABROAD:
An Overview

We welcome you to explore the world, where you will meet exciting people and learn about their traditions and culture. This experience will enrich your lives. The following guidelines and goals will answer some of the questions you may have about the travel abroad experience.

Please do not hesitate to request further information from your academic department or the Associate Provost for Academic Program Development.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. The trip must be to a nation outside the United States.
2. The trip must last at least seven days; roundtrip travel is included in these seven days.
3. The trip must be organized by GCU faculty or by an agency or institution approved by GCU.
4. Family trips, personal trips, or trips taken while a high school student do not count.
5. Travel Abroad cannot be used simultaneously to satisfy any other experiential learning requirement (e.g., service learning).
6. Students must obtain prior approval for their travel abroad experience. The academic advisor, department chairperson, school dean, or Associate Provost for Academic Program Development can provide such approval in writing. The written approval should describe how the approved trip meets the above general guidelines. For trips organized or attended by a GCU faculty member, that faculty member would ordinarily be the person providing and signing the approval. The original of the approval, with dated signatures by the faculty member and student, should be sent to the Office of the Provost and the student and faculty member giving the approval should retain a copy.

GOALS

Goal 1. Students will become familiar with the culture and society of another nation.

Goal 2. Students will gain insights into the political and social issues of another nation.

Goal 3. Students will obtain an introduction to the economy of another nation.

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Expectations and Requirements To Satisfy Experiential Learning Requirement

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II. GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal 1. Students will become familiar with the culture and society of another nation.

OBJECTIVE 1: Students will visit at least five cultural sites during the trip.

OBJECTIVE 2: Students will interact with the society in at least two of the following ways:

- Explore the local area on a commercial or self-planned walking tour
- Attend a religious service, if appropriate
- Eat in a local restaurant/café or with local people
- Talk with local people, as language skills permit

Goal 2. Students will gain insights into the political and social issues of another nation.

OBJECTIVE 1: Students will do at least one of the following:

- Read a local periodical (e.g., newspaper, magazine) or watch a local news program.
- Visit government offices.
- Talk to local people about their views on political issues and the international community.

OBJECTIVE 2: Students will do one of the following:

- Explore a social justice issue in the local area.
- Consider how United States politics impact the host country.

Goal 3. Students will obtain an introduction to the economy of another nation.

OBJECTIVE 1: Students will visit at least five shops or stores during the trip.

OBJECTIVE 2: Students will do at least one of the following:

- Tour an economic enterprise in order to observe its operation
- Exchange currency

III. STUDENT ACTIONS

What Students Do Before Leaving:

Required

- Complete a pre-trip orientation on travel etiquette.
- Read a good, recent guidebook; and use this guidebook to plan your itinerary.
- Read press accounts (online or paper) of your destination in the world press.
- Review the State Department/Embassy website on your destination.
- Examine several maps of the nation and region that you will be visiting.

Suggested

- Read at least one non-fiction introduction to the country and/or culture.
- View a film by a local director/producer, or set in your destination.
- Read a novel by a local author or a novel set in your destination.
- Review your destination's entry in *The World Factbook*, published online by the CIA.
- Attend pre-trip lectures/workshops by GCU faculty, or by others approved by GCU.

What Students Do In-Country:

Required

- Use a recent guidebook.
- Keep a daily journal. Write at least 1 page each day. The journal should record your: Activities, thoughts, reflections, reactions, and questions.

Suggested

- Use local guides.
- Travel on local public transportation (trains, subway, bus, etc.).
- Attend a movie or play.
- Participate in a 1-hour group discussion each evening (for group trips).
- Participate in all activities would include meetings with various groups.
- Take photos.

What Students Do After The Trip:

Required

- Type a 5-page essay discussing how your travel abroad experience enhances your worldview, fosters your personal growth, and relates to your academic work.

Suggested

- Make presentations on your trip to the community.

What Faculty Member Who Granted Approval Does After The Trip:

Faculty member reads student's essay and, if satisfied that the student has met the experiential learning requirement, sends written notice that the requirement has been satisfied to the Registrar's Office, with the student and faculty member retaining a copy.

IV. PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

1. The Travel Abroad program will be within the administrative purview of a particular staff person to be determined.
2. Until administrative staff oversight is determined, inquiries should be directed to the Provost or his designee (currently the Associate Provost for Academic Program Development).

Glossary

Cultural: Pertaining to history, religion, language, literature, art, film, theater, architecture, cuisine, sport.

Cultural Sites: Such cultural places of interest may vary according to the academic needs of the student. Students will use a definition provided by their major department to determine whether a site qualifies.

Economic Enterprise: A business where goods are manufactured or services are provided for the use of general consumers.

Economics: Pertaining to economy, commerce, finance, currency.

Social: Pertaining to people, class, race, ethnicity, gender.

Political: Pertaining to government, politics, laws.

Travel Abroad: An opportunity to experience and learn about another culture in a country other than the United States of America, which differs from Study Abroad in that no academic credits are earned. In addition to taking a designated course with a service learning component, it is one of several recognized ways of fulfilling the experiential learning graduation requirement at Georgian Court University.