

GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY
TRAVEL ABROAD for Experiential Learning Credit:
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. Puerto Rico, Native American lands, U.S. Territories, etc. are not acceptable destinations.
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. Examples of agencies or institutions approved by GCU include regionally accredited colleges and credible, well-established organizations that operate educational travel abroad experiences.
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. This includes students who are planning to study abroad for a week, semester, or year for academic credit but wish to use the travel abroad experience to satisfy an experiential learning requirement. The academic advisor, department chairperson, school dean, or Associate Provost for Academic Program Development provide such approval in writing by completing the "Approval Form for Travel Abroad to Satisfy Experiential Learning Requirement". The completed approval form must indicate that the student is in good disciplinary standing and must 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, student, and Dean of Students, should be sent to the Associate Provost for Academic Program Development, 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.

GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY TRAVEL ABROAD
Expectations and Requirements To Satisfy Experiential Learning Requirement

I. GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. The trip must be to a nation outside the United States. Puerto Rico, Native American lands, U.S. Territories, etc. are not acceptable destinations.
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. Examples of agencies or institutions approved by GCU include regionally accredited colleges and credible, well-established organizations that operate educational travel abroad experiences.
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. This includes students who are planning to study abroad for a week, semester, or year for academic credit but wish to use the travel abroad experience to satisfy an experiential learning requirement. The academic advisor, department chairperson, school dean, or Associate Provost for Academic Program Development provide such approval in writing by completing the "Approval Form for Travel Abroad to Satisfy Experiential Learning Requirement". The completed approval form must indicate that the student is in good disciplinary standing and must 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, student, and Dean of Students, should be sent to the Associate Provost for Academic Program Development, and the student and faculty member giving the approval should retain a copy.

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 if required by your program.
- Read the GCU Student Handbook for Study or Travel Abroad (available from the Associate Provost for Academic Program Development and the GCU Study Abroad website).
- 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 The Country They Visit:

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. In your essay, include information that references how you achieved the 3 goals listed above.

Suggested

- Make presentations on your trip to the community.

What GCU Faculty Member (or Administrator) Who Granted Approval Does After The Trip:

Faculty member (or, if appropriate, school dean or Associate Provost for Academic Program Development) who gave approval for trip 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, faculty member and Associate Provost for Academic Program Development 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 her/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.

GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY

Approval Form For Travel Abroad for trips that satisfy Experiential Learning Requirement

Student's Name _____

Student's GCU ID # _____ Student's Major(s) _____

Trip Destination including brief description of itinerary and travel dates:

Trip Organizer (person, organization) and contact information: _____

To be completed by student before traveling abroad:

I have read the "Expectations and Requirements To Satisfy Experiential Learning Requirement" for Travel Abroad. I know that, if I wish to earn experiential learning credit, I am responsible for doing the required activities before, during and after my travel abroad experience.

Signature of Student _____ Date _____

To be completed by the Dean for Students before student travels abroad:

The above-named student is in good disciplinary standing.

Signature of Dean of Students _____ Date _____

To be completed by person approving trip (faculty advisor, department chairperson, school dean, or Associate Provost for Academic Program Development) before student travels abroad:

The trip as described above is to a nation other than the United States, lasts at least 7 days, and is organized by GCU faculty or by an agency or institution approved by GCU.

Printed Name of Approving Individual _____

Signature of Approving Individual _____ Date _____

Original to Assoc Provost Acad Prgm Development; student and approving individual retain copy