Study Abroad - Guidelines for Earning Honors Credit

CSUF University Honors Program

Students who earn university credit by studying abroad will be considered to have earned up to 6 units (3 units per semester) of the 24 units required to graduate from the University Honors Program if they complete the following requirements. Please note that you are not being given formal University credit; instead, we are waiving up to 6 units of required Honors course work. If you wish to earn formal University credit above and beyond what you earn at your study abroad university, you may enroll in HONR 499 or in a departmental independent study course.

1. **Before going abroad, submit an essay to the Honors Program**, outlining your study abroad plans and explaining the intellectual, cultural, and other benefits you anticipate. You are expected to conduct research in order to write this essay: on the history, politics, and culture of the country where you will be studying and on the educational opportunities available to you there.

2. **Keep a journal**. **Submit four installments** of that journal, three times while you are abroad, and the final one after you have returned to the Fullerton campus. This journal should be an intellectual exercise. It may include observations on your personal growth, but it should also include broader reflections as well.

   Topics and issues to include in your journal:

   - Cross-cultural reflections/contrasts between America (and California) and your host country – include historical, institutional, political, artistic, and cultural insights.

   - Similarities and differences in college life (faculty expectations, student expectations, student life) – try to explain the patterns you see.

   - Your course work – how has it changed, challenged, or reinforced your previous understandings?

   - Person-to-person cultural insights: What have you personally observed as a result of such person-to-person contacts with residents of the host country or with your fellow international students? You may want to conduct a structured interview with one or more people to explore the meaning and significance of these insights.

   - Evolution of your assumptions and expectations. How have the expectations you developed in your essay written before going abroad been confirmed or challenged?

   - What should CSUF students contemplating study abroad know before they go? What do you wish that you had known?

3. **Public presentation during the first semester after you return to CSUF**. Synthesize the insights and observations in your journal entries into a 20-minute presentation before an audience to be determined by the Honors Program. You are welcome to make this a multimedia presentation, but remember that the focus should be on conveying cross-cultural insights, substantive information, and personal reflections. Make sure that whatever visual materials you include truly illustrate the points you are developing in your presentation.