

COR Advanced Interdisciplinary Seminars: Study Abroad

Tips for Proposing and Developing Your Course

The following tips were developed in response to the Elon Core Curriculum Council's reviews of previous applications and student feedback.

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| Advanced Subject Matter | <p>How does your course help students investigate advanced subject matter in-depth? We suggest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depth of information more than volume/breadth of material. • Workload commensurate with a study abroad experience. • Academic work and abroad experiences that complement each other. |
| Interdisciplinary Approach | <p>How does your course introduce and support both interdisciplinary material and interdisciplinary approaches to inquiry? We suggest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment guidelines that foreground interdisciplinary expectations for research and writing. • Discussions that help students understand interdisciplinary fields' values. |
| Effective Teaching | <p>How does your course integrate a variety of pedagogical approaches? We suggest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of the place as text. If you can teach this course on campus with the same effectiveness and ease, it is not an appropriate study-abroad GST. The course must conceptualize the place as an integral and essential part of the study. • Group work that engages students in the learning process. In a study abroad course, the notion of group work takes on special significance; students are learning from both the material of the course and from the location. • Question and answer sessions in which you and students respond to classmates' questions and concerns. • Guest lectures/tours by local experts. |
| Writing Intensive Methodology | <p>How does your course incorporate writing-intensive instruction and support students in their development of advanced writing capabilities? We suggest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing process activities. While they can be more difficult to undertake in an off-campus environment, students still benefit from these important activities. • A small portion of the project grade assigned to process activities (i.e., credit or no credit for completing process steps) to reinforce the importance of writing process stages. • Acknowledgement of the demands of writing while away from Elon. Even though these students may be excellent at conceptualizing their ideas and communicating them in writing, they might need assistance working through the writing process in the (potential) "oddness" of a study abroad situation. • Flexibility on your part as to the final form of written work required. |

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| Advanced Critical Thinking | How does your course support advanced critical thinking? We suggest: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sufficient time to develop projects. Allow time to plan and revise projects before the final due date. Typically, one or two large projects—with integrated writing process activities like research logs, draft due dates, and peer response—would be adequate for short term courses.• Full use of the environment in which you are teaching the course. Again, if this could be done at Elon, why travel? |
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To suggest additions to these tip sheets, please send your comments to the Director of General Studies who will share them with General Studies Council for further consideration.