

NOMINATION ESSAY SCORING GUIDE

2021-22 ACADEMIC YEAR PROGRAMS

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.

Prompt A: Academics

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

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

Academic Goals

- 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.

Program Structure

- You've researched the program and fully convey accurate, specific knowledge of the programs' structure, academic offerings and support, and explain how these align with your academic plan.

Coursework

- You provided examples of how this program builds upon your education to date.
- You link the program to your major, minor or other demonstrated academic interests.
- You outline specific coursework you plan to take abroad.

Post-Study Abroad Considerations

- You demonstrate how your studies abroad will enhance your studies at DU upon your return to campus.

Grammar & Organization

- 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.



Students applying to an unaffiliated program (AUP/UPP) 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.

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

Prompt B: Personal & Professional Goals

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:

Personal Goals

- You clearly articulate in depth what you hope to gain personally from an international experience, providing *at minimum* one concrete in depth example.

Professional Goals

- You clearly articulate in depth what you hope to gain professionally from an international experience, providing *at minimum* one concrete in depth example.

Program Elements

- 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

Post-Study Abroad Considerations

- You clearly outline how this particular program choice specifically fits with or would help you to achieve the personal and professional goals when you return to campus.

Grammar & Organization

- 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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Prompt 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:

Addressing Potential Challenges

- You clearly identify challenges that you might face in relation to studying and living abroad.
- 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

Examples of Challenges

- Studying/living abroad
- Program structure
- Local culture
- Culture
- Location
- Independence/Self-Advocacy
- Resources/Solutions
- Challenges from *Essay Essentials* (if applicable)

Post-Study Abroad Considerations

- Clearly outlines specific post abroad considerations, includes examples and links to potential actions returning from abroad

Grammar & Organization

- 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.



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

- You discuss 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.