

Northwestern

Study Abroad Goals Assessment

Instructions

Use this worksheet to guide you through the process of identifying your study abroad goals and choosing a study abroad program. After completing this worksheet, bring it to your advising appointment, where your advisor can use your responses to focus the appointment on your individual needs and assist you in moving forward with your study abroad planning.

Step 1: Identify Goals

The first step to study abroad is to identify your goals. ***What is important to you in a study abroad experience?*** Considering your goals carefully is important, because it will help guide you in finding the right program for you, based on your interests and priorities.

Below are factors you may consider when choosing a program. The questions are only a few examples of things to think about for each factor.

Academic Offerings

Do you want to earn credit toward your major, minor, distribution, or other requirements?

Career Path

Do you want to participate in specific courses and/or extracurricular activities that are important in your intended field?

Finances

Are you looking for a program that does not cost much more than being on campus? Would you like to use your financial aid for study abroad?

Housing

Do you want to live in a student dormitory or other on-campus option? Do you want to live in a homestay?

Language

Do you want to take all of your courses in a foreign language, in English, or a mix of both?

Learning Environment & Style

Do you want to take classes with other Northwestern students or with other study abroad students, either from US or foreign institutions?

Location & Geographic Interests

Do you want to study abroad in a specific country or region of the world?

Personal Identity

What aspects of your personal identity are important to consider when studying abroad? Are there locations that may be more safe and comfortable spaces for you to express your personal identity?

Program Type

Do you want to participate in a program designed and administered by Northwestern? Do you want to directly enroll in a partner university as an exchange student?



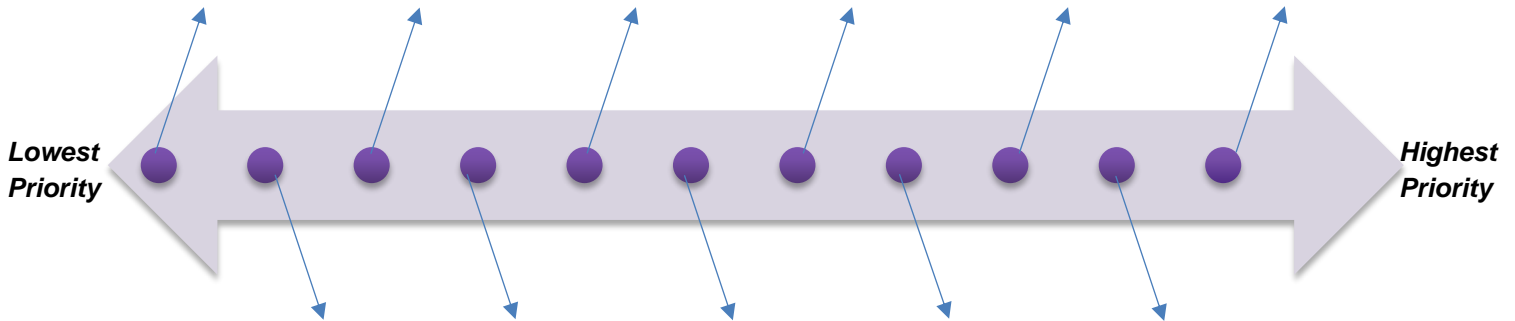
Using these factors, and any additional considerations you may have, jot down some notes about your priorities.

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Plot your priorities on the continuum below. *Remember:* this is to help you settle on your priorities for study abroad, so be honest with yourself!



Step 2: Write your Goal Statement

Try to summarize your goals for study abroad in a 1-2 sentence goal statement. Examples include:

- *"I want to study abroad for one term, take classes in French with local students that I can apply toward my economics major, and live with a host family."*
- *"I want to take classes and do a research, service-learning, or internship project in Spanish. I am interested in Latin America."*
- *"I want to learn/improve a language, take classes with Northwestern professors and/or with Northwestern classmates, and earn credit toward my minor in Global Health Studies."*



Write your goal statement below. *Tip:* Your goal statement is a good jumping off point for writing your Personal Statement for the study abroad application.