

# Statement of Purpose Guidelines for Scholarships

A Statement of Purpose is required in order to be considered for CSU study abroad scholarships. If you are applying for scholarships for more than one program, then you must apply separately and submit a separate essay for each program.

*Remember that your personal statement is by far the most important factor in the scholarship review process. Think, prepare, write, review and rewrite.*

The Statement of Purpose should be

- 500-900 words
- Double spaced and in an easy to read font (Times New Roman 12, for example)
- Title page is not required
- Include your name on the first page

## **Summary**

Briefly (50 words maximum) provide a justification why the scholarship committee members should provide you with a scholarship to participate in this particular study abroad program based on your academic, professional and personal goals. Make sure the content of your essay addresses most of the issues or points listed below but focus your essay on the most relevant and BE SPECIFIC)

## **Academic Goals**

- How will this study abroad program with the course(s) you take support your academic goals at CSU and beyond? What inspired you to study abroad in this particular country?
- Are there specific or unusual components to the program, such as home-stays, that will increase the impact of this program for you?

## **Professional Goals**

- How does this study abroad program support your future professional goals? Are there unusual features to the program and/or course(s) that are particularly important to your professional goals?

## **Personal Goals**

- How will this study abroad program support your personal goals? What challenges or obstacles, if any, have you faced in pursuing study abroad? How would the scholarship help you overcome those obstacles?

## **Tips for Good Essays**

- *Plan ahead.*
  - *Make an outline of what you'd like to say before you start writing. Having structure to your essay is important.*

- *Don't wait until the last minute to get started. A hastily written essay is easy to spot and reduces the likelihood of receiving a scholarship.*
- *Advocate for yourself and be yourself.*
  - *Remember you are trying to make the case for why the scholarship review committee should fund you instead of another applicant.*
  - *You want a clear and concise argument that shows exactly how investing in you will help you reach your goals.*
- *Also, use this essay as an opportunity to explain any discrepancies with regards to your transcript or academic history. (i.e. you performed poorly in academics as a freshman, but now you are focused and making good grades)*
- *Be original and avoid clichés.*
  - *Avoid phrases like "I always knew I wanted to travel to [country] and I've dreamed of seeing the world" or "Study abroad is a life changing opportunity." While these statements may be true and are valid opinions, they are frequently overused and bore a reader who is reviewing dozens of Essays.*
  - *Be specific in making your case. What will you actually do in the program and how with your participation help you achieve your goals?*
  - *Remember your audience. The review committee is comprised of CSU faculty and staff members.*
- *Proofread your paper and ask others to help you with that.*
  - *Spelling and grammatical errors will hurt your chances.*
  - *Ask an advisor or professor to give you feedback on your essay. They can help find proofreading errors or give advice on how to improve content.*
  - *Use the Academic Center for Tutoring as a resource as well.*