



Faculty Guide for Student Interviews – Study Abroad

The document is intended as a guide to assist faculty in conducting interviews with student applicants for study abroad programs. Below are interview goals, topics to address, and corresponding sample questions. Note that for reasons of legality, you should not ask any questions regarding the following topics during the interview: age, citizenship, national origin, personal finances or credit ratings, where they live, whether they rent or own their home, disability/health*, military service, marital status/whether they have children, political affiliations, race, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation.

*All students are required to sign a comprehensive waiver before participating. The risks and mitigation measures are customized for your program and the waiver also includes the following language relative to disability and health:

The following are requirements that are frequently required in global education programs: observation skills, hearing skills, communication skills, motor skills, cognitive skills, mental health, behavioral health, and physical health. I understand that if I need a reasonable accommodation to equally participate in this program, it is my responsibility to proactively contact the Disability Resources and Services Center (disabilityresources@ucdenver.edu) to discuss options eight to ten weeks before the program.

Interview Goals

- Establish whether the applicant is academically fit for your program and determine the student's academic interest in your program
- Determine whether the applicant's personal and social maturity is a good fit for the program and whether the applicant will be an engaged and responsible participant of the group
- Set the tone for your program (what the program is and is not, do's and don'ts, expectations)

Topics to Address (see sample questions further below)

- Academic and personal interests in your program
- Prior group living/traveling experience
- Prior multicultural experience(s)
- Problem-solving abilities/tolerance for stressful situations
- Independence and initiative
- Academic record if the applicant has a GPA lower than the requirement and/or if student failed a class, withdrew from a class, or withdrew from CU Denver or their current institution at any point
- Conduct record (if student discloses a conduct violation on the application)
- University/program/faculty leader's expectations and policies on alcohol and drug consumption
- Applicant's questions/concerns about the program



Sample Interview Questions

General “getting to know you” inquiry:

- Begin by telling us a little about you and what interests you in this course?

Academic and personal interests in your program:

- In what aspects of [country] are you most interested (art, culture, history, scenery)? Why?
- What are your main objectives for studying abroad in [country]?
- How does this program fit into your academic goals?
- I did not see any [program focus] related courses on your transcript. Have you ever taken a [program focus] course? How did you become interested in [program focus]?
- Do you speak [language of program country]?
- Tell us about the most interesting topic that you have researched for a paper during your coursework at CU Denver and why it interested you. Do you have any ideas about what subject you would choose for your paper for the program?

Group living/travel experience

- Do you have any group travel experience? Summer camps? International or domestic travel away from home?
- Did you live on campus your freshman year? Did you get along well with your freshman roommate and do you get along well with your roommates now, if you have any? How have you handled conflict with your roommate/s?
- Describe the role you typically play on a team or in a group.
- In what way(s) would you have a positive influence on your group?
- What do you perceive your responsibilities to be as a member of your study abroad group?

Prior multicultural experience

- Tell us about a time that you have been in an unfamiliar culture and how you have responded to it.

Problem-solving abilities/tolerance for stressful situations or ambiguity

- If you were to lose your luggage on the way to [country], what would be the three things that you would be most unhappy to lose? What would you do about it?
- Tell me about a time when you stepped out of your comfort zone to take on a task. What was the situation? Why did you take on that task? How did that situation turn out?
- We all experience stress or feeling overwhelmed from time to time. If you were feeling stressed or overwhelmed while on this program, how would we know this and what do you do to manage your stress?



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Independence and initiative

- What do you plan to do with your free days while you are in [country]? What do you plan to do with your free evenings?

Academic record (if the applicant has a GPA lower than the requirement and/or if student failed a class, or withdrew from a class, or withdrew from CU at any point)

- I see low or failing grade(s), and/or a semester or more where you did not take a full load of courses, why was this so? What have you done to rectify the situation?

Conduct record (if student discloses a violation on the application)

- I see that you have a conduct violation at CU Denver/other institution. Could you please describe what happened?
- What did you learn and how did you change your behavior as a result?
- Why do you think practicing safe behavior is particularly critical while abroad? If the infraction was drug- or alcohol-related, could you describe what role drug and/or alcohol use currently plays in your life?

Applicant's questions/concerns about the program

- What questions and/or concerns do you have regarding the study abroad program in [country]?