

# Wheaton College, Norton, MA

## Center for Global Education

### ACADEMIC GUIDELINES FOR STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS 2010-2011

**Academic Expectations:** As a student approved for overseas study, Wheaton expects that you will undertake a rigorous, challenging academic experience. Where possible, you should elect coursework at the same level as host country university students with similar backgrounds and preparation. If you are enrolled in a foreign university system, you should be aware that teaching and assessment methods might be considerably different from what you have experienced in the U.S. and at Wheaton. Large lectures, possibly with small discussion groups led by tutors, may be the norm. Generally, there may be an expectation of far more independent reading and work. The basis for evaluation of performance may not be on-going, graded assignments, quizzes or midterms, but rather on a whole body of work or only one final comprehensive examination. Wheaton students are expected to meet all academic requirements and abide by the policies of the host university, college or program sponsor in addition to Wheaton College policies as outlined in the *Wheaton College Catalog* and in the *Wheaton Study Abroad Pre-departure Handbook* and in materials provided by the host university/program.

**Course Selection and Credits:** The course information you listed on your Wheaton Study Abroad Application Form/Petition Form must be reconfirmed once you are accepted by and are enrolled in a program. It is possible that your courses will change once you are overseas. An appropriate Wheaton academic department chair must approve all course changes. A copy of course approvals must be sent via email to your Study Abroad Advisor in the Center for Global Education for your file. Failure to do so may jeopardize credit transfer. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are registered for a full-time, normal course load at the university or program in which you are enrolled. The Center for Global Education will assist you in determining credit and course equivalents. Many U.S. college-sponsored programs define course credits on a semester hour basis, as follows:

**To earn the equivalent Wheaton semester credits (4.0 Wheaton credits) students must enroll in 15 - 16 U.S. semester hours of credit. Do not assume that four courses overseas will receive credit equal to four Wheaton courses. Course loads for normal, full-time study vary from one program or university to another.**

Foreign university credit designations can be significantly different from U.S. systems of credit, using neither semester hours nor Wheaton credit units. Variations by academic departments and level of study may define the number of courses taken in a semester or year. The length of the period of study also needs to be examined to determine if it is equivalent to a full semester. Single terms or quarter terms (or other designations) are not considered equal to a semester and may result in fewer than 4.0 Wheaton credits. If a shorter period of study is your only option, it may be possible to take additional credits at some point after you return. Since students are unfamiliar with the academic culture of an overseas institution, students are prohibited from undertaking courses that would be considered over and above a normal full-time course load.

**Grades:** Credit will transfer back to Wheaton for courses completed with a grade of “C” or higher. Only letter grades or clearly defined numerical equivalencies to a “C” grade will be accepted. Pass/Fail options are not considered for transfer credit unless a letter/numerical assessment is recorded. Grades for overseas courses are not calculated into your grade point average (GPA). This certainly does not mean that you should not be concerned with academic performance. Graduate schools and some employers may wish to review transcripts for all undergraduate work, including study abroad.

You should consult with your in-country advisors and resident directors, who are very experienced in “translating” the host institution’s credit system for transfer to the U.S. Continue to consult Wheaton faculty and advisors in appropriate departments and the Center for Global Education while you are overseas. Your host university/overseas program will assist students with communication back to their home campuses for clarification of academic matters and policies as necessary.

**Program Evaluations:** All study abroad participants must complete the Center for Global Education On-line Evaluation when they return from their study abroad program.

The On-line Evaluation can be accessed from the following website: <http://www.wheatoncollege.edu/global/studyAway/Returnees/>

Student’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Wheaton ID: \_\_\_\_\_