

Wheaton College, Norton, MA
Center for Global Education
Norton, MA 02766

**ACADEMIC GUIDELINES FOR SHORT-TERM
INTERNATIONAL STUDY ABROAD**

January & Summer 2011

Academic Expectations:

As a student approved for short-term study abroad, 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. Although your study abroad program takes place during January or summer, you will be expected to undertake coursework as seriously as during the regular academic year. Since the duration of January and summer programs is shorter, courses are taught more intensively than during a regular academic year or semester. 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 *Study Abroad Predeparture Handbook*.

Course Selection and Credits:

The course information you listed on your original *Short-term Study Abroad Petition Form* must be reconfirmed once you are accepted by and actually enroll in a program. It is possible that your courses will change once you are overseas. A Wheaton faculty chair must approve all changes. Failure to do so may jeopardize credit transfer. Students participating in a short-term study abroad program will generally take two courses.

Foreign university credit designations can be significantly different from U.S. systems of credit, using neither semester hours nor Wheaton credit units. The length of the period of study also needs to be examined closely to determine if each course is equivalent to a full Wheaton course.

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. 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 host country faculty advisors and overseas 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 staff advisors in appropriate departments and offices throughout your overseas stay. Your host university/overseas program usually will assist students with communication back to their home campuses for clarification of academic matters and policies.

Program Evaluations: All students must complete the Center for Global Education On-line Evaluation when they return from their study abroad program. This is an important final step in the credit approval process.

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 _____