



**General Education Committee
Minutes**

October 27, 2017

Hello GEC Members,

Last week I sent out the Study Abroad form for you to review. It's been updated, mainly thanks to Scott Harris. The final version is attached for your approval.

Please use the voting buttons in this email (or if you can't find them, you can reply to me) and vote to approve or reject on the Study Abroad Ver2 form. Votes are due by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 26.

The vote was 7 for and 0 against with 7 abstaining. The form is approved.

Check-Off for Study Abroad Experiences to Qualify as Coursework in Fulfillment of the MSUB Cultural Diversity General Education Requirement.

The MSUB catalog states the rationale for the General Education Cultural Diversity requirement:

Cultural diversity presents us with an awareness and understanding of the variety of human experience, especially as manifested among cultures, both present and past.

- *Understand social, cultural, political and economic changes over time,*
- *Comprehend the international ramifications of domestic policies and how these may affect and be experienced by people in other cultures,*
- *Appreciate and be sensitized to world cultures.*

The General Education Assessment Objectives for the Cultural Diversity requirement are:

1. *Demonstrate an ability to identify and solve problems relating to cultural diversity within the discipline.*
2. *Demonstrate the ability to communicate and analyze effectively concerning cultural diversity within the discipline.*
3. *Demonstrate a basic understanding of the importance of awareness of cultural diversity within the various disciplines.*

Faculty led study abroad trips possess the innate potential to fulfill both the rationale as well as the set of assessment objectives for Cultural Awareness. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to faculty members who would propose that a specific study abroad trip qualify as fulfilling the MSUB Cultural Awareness Requirement in General Education.

The course instructor will indicate how the following will be addressed and incorporated into the study abroad trip:

- The trip will involve a minimum of 45 hours instruction or its equivalent devoted to the cultural diversity aspects of the study abroad experience.
- Students will identify milestone historical and cultural events and relate them to the current political and social institutions, traditions, customs, values, and mores in the host country—either in general or within the context of a subset of disciplines.
- Students will be involved in immersion activities with people from the host country.
- Students will analyze specific instances of differences between their home culture and their observations in the host country or area and will be able to communicate a coherent rationale for those differences.
- Student completion of a specified project or other tangible product to be assessed for certifying competency necessary to fulfill the Cultural Awareness requirement of MSUB General Education.

A written proposal that states how the foregoing points will be addressed in the specific study abroad experience must be submitted for approval to the International Studies Advisor.