

GUIDE TO WRITING A STELLAR SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

- UCSC STUDY ABROAD -

STEP 1

READ THROUGH THE ESSAY PROMPTS

Write down each question or topic that the essay prompt is asking you to address in a bulleted list. Leave space under each bullet.

SEE PAGE 2

STEP 2

BRAINSTORM HOW YOU WANT TO ANSWER EACH PROMPT

Now that you have a sheet with each of your topics in a bulleted list, start writing down ideas on how you might address each topic.

SEE PAGE 2

STEP 3

CREATE A STRUCTURE

Now, you have draft idea for the main body of your essay. Arrange each of these topics in a way that flows nicely. You still need an introduction and a conclusion.

SEE PAGE 3

STEP 4

WRITE YOUR INTRO

We recommend that you start with a spark to engage the reader. Start with "why" you want to study abroad and where you want to go. Be sure to include your entire program title, term and program type. Next, summarize what you will share in your essay.

SEE PAGE 3

STEP 5

WRITE YOUR BODY PARAGRAPHS

Now take the notes you've already created for your essay body and make em' spiffy.

SEE PAGE 3

STEP 6

WRITE YOUR CONCLUSION

It's important that your reader has caught a glimpse of who YOU are and WHY this experience will be meaningful for you, personally and professionally.

SEE PAGE 4

STEP 7

PROOFREAD AND POLISH

Proofread your essay. Then share it with a strong writer in your community to get their thoughts on it. Be sure to check that your essay answers each of the scholarship prompts.

SEE PAGE 5

STEP 8

GET FEEDBACK FROM UCSC STUDY ABROAD

Send your essays, and the prompts to studyabroad@ucsc.edu in an editable google doc two weeks before the deadline for submitting your essay.

STEP 9

SUBMIT YOUR APP

Be sure to resolve any additional suggestions from UCSC Study Abroad. Send it back to them if you want to, and if time allows for one more check. Then when you feel good about it, submit! You did it!

SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: USE THIS WORKSHEET TO WRITE A BULLETED LIST OF WHAT YOUR ESSAY FRAMEWORK WILL BE. DO NOT WRITE IN FULL SENTENCES YET.

STEP 1 + STEP 2

TOPIC/ QUESTION 1:

TOPIC/ QUESTION 5:

TOPIC/ QUESTION 2:

TOPIC/ QUESTION 6:

TOPIC/ QUESTION 3:

TOPIC/ QUESTION 7:

TOPIC/ QUESTION 4:

TOPIC/ QUESTION 8:

SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHEET

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STEP 3

To the right you will see the suggested structure for your essay. Body Paragraph 1, 2 and 3 should be comprised of all of your topics/questions from Step 2. Group topics that are similar to one another in the same paragraph around a theme. Themes could be related to how your experience will impact you. For example: personal, academic and professional impacts.

INTRODUCTION

BODY PARAGRAPH 1

BODY PARAGRAPH 2

BODY PARAGRAPH 3

CONCLUSION

PARAGRAPH 1 THEME:

PARAGRAPH 2 THEME:

PARAGRAPH 3 THEME:

STEP 4

INTRO TIPS

Start with why. Include what you are doing and where. Share part of your story. Who are you? How do you identify? (Please view the Identities Abroad and Away section on our website). Introduce the impact this experience will have on your life, which will be further explained in body paragraphs 1, 2 +3. For example: "Studying abroad in South Africa will impact my personal development (body paragraph 1), academic achievement (body paragraph 2) and professional goals (body paragraph 3)."

INTRODUCTION

STEP 5

BODY PARAGRAPH TIPS

Arrange all of your topic/questions from step 1 +2 into groups related to your three themes. Your paragraph themes should be arranged in the same order that you introduce them in your introduction.

BODY PARAGRAPH 1

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BODY PARAGRAPH 2

BODY PARAGRAPH 3

STEP 6

CONCLUSION TIPS

Reiterate everything you already mentioned in a summary. Consider including how your study abroad experience could be shared with your communities and how it will impact your future.

CONCLUSION

NOT ENOUGH ROOM ON THIS WORKSHEET?

Feel free to use additional pages when needed. The worksheet is meant as a guide just to get you started.

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STEP 7

PROOFREADING AND POLISHING TIPS AND TRICKS

We recommend that you read through your essay and make sure that it follows the below suggestions:

REMEMBER, THIS IS AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

- I have replaced the words trip and travel with appropriate substitutes such as program, experience, study abroad program etc.

SHOW YOU'VE DONE COURSE RESEARCH

- I have referenced several courses that I plan to take on this program and directly tied the courses to my personal, professional or academic goals.

BE SPECIFIC, NOT STEREOTYPIC

- I am not making generalizations of the host culture, and instead, I'm speaking about specific aspects of the host culture that are personal and exciting. (If you're unsure, do some research or meet with an advisor.)

EXPLAIN YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION

- I have explained the financial circumstances that I am experiencing that are not conveyed through my financial aid documents. I have shared how I plan to pay for this program, and how beneficial receiving this scholarship would be.

DON'T ASSUME THE READER KNOWS YOUR PROGRAM

- I have written out the program's full title, location, term and program type in my essay.

EXAMPLES:

- I will be participating on a University of California - Santa Cruz, Global Exchange to Aarhus University in Denmark for the Spring Semester.
- I will spend a six weeks this summer participating on a University of California Education Abroad Program in Rome, Italy titled "Rome Summer Physics".
- I am attending the University of California - Santa Cruz faculty-led program, "Moroccan Film and Arabic Language" in Rabat, Morocco this summer.
- I will be studying away this summer in Hilo, Hawaii through the University of California - Davis's Global Learning Program: "Holistic Healing Internships".
- I am studying abroad through International Studies Abroad during the winter quarter in Auckland, New Zealand. The program I'm attending is titled "Internship and New Zealand Studies".

SHARE YOUR IDENTITIES

- I've shared the prominent aspects of myself and the way I grew up that impact how I view the world around me. I have referenced the Identities Abroad and Away section on the UCSC website and included all identities that relate to me.

WHAT ELSE WILL YOU DO THERE?

- I have included any additional opportunities that this program may offer that are not offered on our campus and are unique to this program. (Such as internships, volunteer, research, extra curricular clubs or orgs).

WHY THIS PROGRAM? WHY NOW?

- I have clearly addressed why I chose this program over others. I've also clearly explained why I'm going during this time.