



STUDY ABROAD PETITION FOR NON-APPROVED PROGRAM

Global Programs and Studies (GPS)

All students who wish to submit a Study Abroad Petition for Non-Approved Program are required to meet with one of the GPS Study Abroad Advisors. This meeting is mandatory and needs to take place **BEFORE** students can begin the petition process.

DEADLINES

Study Abroad Petition for Non-Approved submission deadlines are:

For study abroad during the Spring 2025 semester: **Monday, September 16, 2024**

For study abroad during the Fall 2025 semester: **Wednesday, January 29, 2025**

Petitions must be submitted to the Global Programs and Studies office by the deadline; late petitions are NOT accepted.

PETITION INFORMATION

Global Programs and Studies (GPS) has made a special effort to include on its list of approved programs, those that meet high academic standards, correspond to the mission of GPS, and represent a wide choice for students in regard to curriculum, language, and location. GPS will, however, consider the petition of a student who would like to attend a non-approved program and receive academic credit (which will appear as transfer credit on their Wheaton transcript). Non-approved programs are a potential option for students who cannot find an academic match for their major on any of the Wheaton-approved programs. Submitted petitions must demonstrate a compelling academic reason for studying on a non-approved program. **Note:** a petition for direct enrollment in an international university **will not be considered**.

All petitions are evaluated by GPS based on the following criteria:

- strong academic justification for choosing a non-approved program versus an existing Wheaton-approved program;
- the academic rigor and quality of the program;
- the appropriateness of the student's plan of study to his/her overall academic plan/major;
- the strength of the student's preparation at Wheaton;
- the level of cultural immersion or integration in the host country;
- the quality of the match between the student's goals and the opportunities that the non-approved program offers; and
- the strength of the program's capability to address standards of health, safety and logistics.

PETITION PRE-REQUISITES

Most programs have preconditions for admission, so students must meet the specified prerequisites for the program they want to attend. In addition, Wheaton College requires that all students participating in international study programs:

- 1) Be a degree-seeking student in good academic standing during the semester(s) in which the student applies, is accepted, and participates in the program. Students on academic probation or suspension, or who have incomplete grades, are not eligible to study abroad/off-campus.
- 2) Be in good standing with Student Development during the semester(s) in which the student applies, is accepted, and participates in the program. Students on disciplinary probation, including Chapel, or suspension are not eligible to study abroad.
- 3) Agree to behave while abroad according to Wheaton Community Covenant standards, and any additional student conduct standards adopted by the particular study/service abroad program in which the student is a participant, and local laws.
- 4) Be at least 18 years of age or older.
- 5) Comply in a timely manner with all travel preparation protocols including, but not limited to, attending orientations, paying all deposits and student bills, meeting all established application and pre-departure deadlines, obtaining passports and visas, completing Student Health Services requirements, responding to Student Care Team inquiries, etc. Students who fail to meet either College or program deadlines may not be allowed to participate.
- 6) Be current in their student accounts. Students with past due balances with Student Financial Services will not be approved to study abroad.
- 7) Comply with country(s) specific vaccinations required by the US Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). For further details and exceptions, see Wheaton College Travel Clinic Immunization Exemption Policy and Wheaton College Travel Clinic Immunization Waiver.
- 8) Carry domestic, personal health insurance or have access to healthcare from their home country; coverage should include preventive care before program departure, any routine care required while overseas, and any follow-up care which might be needed upon return from an international program. A student studying or serving off-campus in a U.S. location should carry personal health insurance that provides coverage in the U.S.; coverage should include emergency medical care and routine care where needed. While Wheaton provides insurance for emergency medical needs for approved participants in a Wheaton-sponsored program (**outside of the U.S. and the participant's home country**), students maintain responsibility for their health care needs, insurance, and expenses while at home, on-campus, and abroad/off-campus.

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

If your petition is approved, you will be eligible to use your Wheaton financial aid, federal/state financial aid, and any other transferable scholarships and loans.

NOTIFICATION AND POST-NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Global Programs and Studies will review your petition and you will receive notice of the final decision within two weeks of the deadline. GPS petition decisions are final, and there are no further opportunities for appealing rejected applications.
- 2) If your petition is granted, you will need to complete an Application for Off-Campus Study Approval. You will not be reviewed for final approval to study abroad until this application process is complete. Please contact GPS immediately for more information.

CHECKLIST

Instructions: To submit a Petition for a Non-Approved Program, please submit ALL of the requirements on this checklist to the Global Programs and Studies office by the deadline posted on page one of this document.

- ☐ Petition Form for Non-Approved Study Abroad Program *(included in this packet)*
- ☐ Student Statement of Academic Rationale: *Please explain your reasons for pursuing this program and its relevance to your work at Wheaton College and to your future plans, as well as why this program fits your academic needs better than the other approved programs. Make sure you demonstrate a compelling academic reason for studying on a non-approved program as opposed to an approved program. Be sure to include specific reasons such as the program's particular relevance to your major or special opportunities it provides, rather than the general importance of study abroad. Explain how you are particularly prepared academically for this program.*
- ☐ Plan of Study while Off-Campus & Completed Request for Approval of Transfer Credit Form: *This should include a list of courses you plan to take, pre-requisites, credit value, and course syllabi or detailed course descriptions (course syllabi preferred). Meet with your Academic Advisor to review this course information and then complete the Request for Approval of Transfer Credit form to confirm how these courses may transfer back to Wheaton (e.g. major requirements, general education requirements, electives, etc.). Note that you will be required to maintain full-time student status while off-campus. **Please include this with your petition materials – DO NOT submit it to Academic Advising or the Registrar's Office at this time.***
- ☐ Program Information (3 pages maximum): *Handouts, brochures or website printouts including information about:*
 - Accreditation Status or School of Record
 - Faculty/Instructors (if not indicated on syllabus/course description – see above)
 - Methods of Evaluation (if not indicated on syllabus/course description – see above)
 - Health and Safety Protocol and Procedure
 - Elements of Cultural Integration and opportunities for Culture Learning
 - On-Site Support and Staff
 - Accommodation Options
 - Cost (total breakdown including airfare, room, board, tuition, etc.)
- ☐ Letter of Recommendation from Wheaton College Faculty Member: *A Wheaton College faculty member must sponsor this petition and write a strong letter of recommendation and support to further demonstrate the academically compelling/convincing reasons as to why a non-approved program is more suitable for the student petitioner. This letter of support should be from someone who can evaluate the student as well as the non-approved program in question. Please arrange to pick up a hard copy of this letter in a sealed and signed envelope and submit it to GPS with the rest of your petition materials.*
- ☐ Wheaton College transcript (an un-official printed version from banner is acceptable)
- ☐ Complete the first part of the [Off-Campus Study Approval](#) application on GoGlobal: *Your academic and judicial eligibility for off-campus study must be verified. Select "Z – Petition/Non-Approved Program" for the Approved Program question and provide the name of the program you are petitioning to attend in the Non-Approved Program question.*



WHEATON
COLLEGE
For Christ & His Kingdom

Petition Form for Non-Approved Study Abroad Program

STUDENT INFORMATION

- 1) Name: _____ 2) Student ID #: _____
- 3) Telephone number: _____ 4) Email: _____
- 5) Current Status: ☐ First Year ☐ Sophomore ☐ Junior ☐ Senior
- 6) Major(s): _____ 7) Minor(s): _____
- 8) Academic Advisor: _____

PROGRAM INFORMATION

- 1) Program and Provider Name (including sponsoring organization/institution):

- 2) Program Location (city, country): _____
- 3) Program Contact (name, email, telephone no.):

- 4) Does this location have a U.S. State Department Travel Advisory Level 3 (Reconsider travel) or 4 (Do not travel)? (see: www.travel.state.gov) ☐ YES ☐ NO
- 5) Does this location have a high or extreme security or medical risk rating from International SOS? (see: www.internationalsos.com, select Subscriber login, and enter with Wheaton's membership number 11BSGC000040. At the member portal screen, select **Get Started** if you have an account with International SOS and then log-in with your **Wheaton College** email address and password. If not, select "Don't Have an Account? Sign up" using your Wheaton College email to create a password following the instructions given. On the Home screen, type the country name in the **Search Destinations** in the gray bar along the top of the screen.) ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Note: If the program location has a U.S. State Department Travel Advisory Level 3 or 4, or an International SOS security or medical risk rating of high or extreme, it is unlikely this petition will be approved as it will be difficult to demonstrate essentiality for undergraduate learning outcomes when other, lower risk locations are widely available.*
- 6) Term of off-campus study: ☐ Fall 20____ ☐ Spring 20____ ☐ Full Year 20____/20____
- 7) Program language(s) of instruction: _____
- 8) Please list any Pre-requisites for acceptance into the program:

9) Do you meet the conditions for acceptance and pre-requisites for the program? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If NO, please explain: _____

10) Program start/end dates: _____

11) Does the program arrange housing? ☐ YES ☐ NO If yes, what type of housing is available to you?

(homestay, residence halls, apartments, etc) _____

12) How did you find out about this program?

WHEATON COLLEGE EXPECTATIONS AND PRE-REQUISITES

In addition to any pre-requisites established by the program, Wheaton College requires that all students participating in College-sponsored or approved international travel opportunities:

- 1) Be a degree-seeking student in good academic standing during the semester(s) in which the student applies, is accepted, and participates in the program. Students on academic probation or suspension, or who have incomplete grades, are not eligible to study abroad/off-campus.
- 2) Be in good standing with Student Development during the semester(s) in which the student applies, is accepted, and participates in the program. Students on disciplinary probation, including Chapel, or suspension are not eligible to study abroad.
- 3) Agree to behave while abroad according to Wheaton Community Covenant standards, and any additional student conduct standards adopted by the particular study/service abroad program in which the student is a participant, and local laws.
- 4) Be at least 18 years of age or older.
- 5) Comply in a timely manner with all travel preparation protocols including, but not limited to, attending orientations, paying all deposits and student bills, meeting all established application and pre-departure deadlines, obtaining passports and visas, completing Student Health Services requirements, responding to Student Care Team inquiries, etc. Students who fail to meet either College or program deadlines may not be allowed to participate.
- 6) Be current in their student accounts. Students with past due balances with Student Financial Services will not be approved to study abroad.
- 7) Comply with country(s) specific vaccinations required by the US Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). For further details and exceptions, see Wheaton College Travel Clinic Immunization Exemption Policy and Wheaton College Travel Clinic Immunization Waiver.
- 8) Carry domestic, personal health insurance or have access to healthcare from their home country; coverage should include preventive care before program departure, any routine care required while overseas, and any follow-up care which might be needed upon return from an international program.

Are you able to meet these College-wide expectations and pre-requisites? ☐ YES ☐ NO

BACK-UP PROGRAM

Because GPS does not guarantee that your petition will be approved, please indicate your second choice of program from the Approved Program List.

Program Name: _____ Program Location (city, country): _____

SIGNATURES

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Academic Advisor Name (printed): _____

Academic Advisor Signature: _____ Date: _____