

STUDY ABROAD & GENERAL EDUCATION ISSUES

You must request approval to use study abroad courses to fulfill the General Education Issues requirement. You do not have to be junior status to take your Issue courses abroad.

Detailed instructions are available on the Padnos International Center website at: www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad

Earn 3 credits abroad

Take one 3-credit course abroad
*See Other Information #4

Take one 3-credit General Education Issues course at GVSU from a different discipline before or after study abroad
*See Other Information #5

Earn 6 or more credits abroad

GVSU Partnerships/Non-GVSU Programs

Take two 3-credit courses at the host institution to fulfill their General Education Issues requirement.

Both courses may be from the same discipline.

OR

Faculty-Led

Take two 3-credit courses from two different disciplines to fulfill their General Education Issues requirement.

*See Other Information #1

Process for Requesting Issues Credit

1. Review the guidelines for the Issues Reflection Essay on the Study Abroad Issues Proposal Form (attached).
2. Write your Reflection Essay and complete the Study Abroad Issues Proposal form (attached).
3. Email the Issues Proposal Form and your Reflection Essay to gened@gvsu.edu within 60 days after your return from study abroad. Hardcopy submissions will not be accepted.

Other Information

1. If the program offers two courses from the same discipline, you can use one study abroad course to count for Issues and the second Issues course must be from a different discipline taken at GVSU.
(Faculty-Led Programs ONLY)
2. Courses cannot count for both General Education Issues and Foundation credit.
3. Any 3 credit course completed abroad will automatically fulfill the Global Perspectives requirement, unless otherwise stated on the program flyer.
4. Independent study, independent research, and independent readings (XXX399 and XXX499) courses cannot be used to satisfy Issues credits.
5. If an Issues course taken on-campus is cross-listed in two disciplines, your second Issues course must be taken from a third discipline.



Study Abroad & General Education FAQ's

1. Am I required to obtain the GVSU course equivalency from each academic department for my study abroad courses before submitting my General Education Issues Reflection Essay and Study Abroad Issues Proposal Form to the General Education Office?

Yes. You must secure the departmental approval for each course you complete abroad before you can complete the General Education Issues Reflection Essay. All courses completed abroad are assigned a GVSU course equivalency by the relevant academic department. The course equivalency is a required field on the Issues Reflection Form. If the course you complete overseas has already been reviewed by the academic department, and the course equivalency is listed on one of the course equivalency charts available on the PIC website, you do not have to get that course approved by the department.

2. Can I obtain approval for my Study Abroad Issues prior to departure?

No. Students will not receive approval for the Issues requirement prior to studying abroad. The Study Abroad Issues Reflection Proposal Form requires a written Study Abroad Reflection Essay to be attached when you are requesting approval to earn credit for the Issues requirement.

3. How will I know if the course I complete abroad will fulfill the Issues requirement if I cannot request prior approval?

The requirements for the Study Abroad Issues requirement are:

- The course(s) you complete abroad must be approved as a minimum of a 3-credit course at GVSU. It can be more than 3 credits, but it must be a minimum of 3 GVSU credits.
- The course cannot also fulfill a General Education Foundations requirement.
- If you are participating in a faculty-led program, or are taking less than 6 credits abroad, your two Issues courses must be from two different academic disciplines.
- Independent study, independent research, and/or independent readings are not eligible for Issues credit.
- Your Issues Reflection Essay and Issues Proposal Form must be submitted to the General Education office within 60 days after you return from your program via email.

4. Can I get credit for Issues and my major with the same course?

Yes. If the course you complete abroad meets major or minor requirements, it can also be used to meet the General Education Issues requirement.

5. Is it possible for me to earn credit for Global Perspectives, Issues and my major with one course abroad?

Yes. With the appropriate approvals, you can earn credit for all three requirements with one course.

6. Can I submit my Study Abroad Issues Form electronically or by hardcopy?

You must scan your completed documents and send them by email to: gened@gvsu.edu. Hardcopies will NOT be accepted.

7. If I am completing a course abroad that will transfer back to GVSU as 6 or more credits, will this study abroad course fulfill my two Issues course requirements?

Yes. As long as the study abroad course is at least 6 US credits, you can request this course towards 2 General Education Issues requirements. Faculty-Led Program courses excluded.

8. I studied abroad through a previous institution before transferring to GVSU. Can I request approval for the study abroad courses from my previous institution to count towards the General Education Issues requirement?

Yes. You can request approval for these courses to meet the General Education Issues requirement, provided you complete the required Issues Reflection Essay and Study Abroad Issues Proposal Form.

9. I participated in a COST program, does that fulfill my Issues requirements?

Partially. The COST programs fulfill 1 Issue course (reflection essay still required) and then you must take an additional Issue course before or after the program itself from a different discipline. COST programs do fulfill the General Education Global Perspectives requirement.

10. I participated in a faculty-led teacher assisting program, does that fulfill my Issues requirements?

Partially. The faculty-led teacher assisting programs fulfill 1 Issue course (reflection essay still required) and then you must take an additional Issue course before or after the program itself from a different discipline. Faculty-led teacher assisting programs do fulfill the General Education Global Perspectives requirement.

Please send any additional questions you have to: studyabroad@gvsu.edu

STUDY ABROAD ISSUES PROPOSAL FORM

STEP 1 of 4 – Prepare a Reflection Essay

Select 1 of the 6 Issues topics listed below. Reflect on the entirety of your experience abroad which includes your course work and your experiences outside of the classroom (i.e., sight-seeing, mass transportation, lodging, encounters with other people in the country, buying food, etc.). You may select topics underneath the broader issue, just be sure to list both the Issue and the specific topic you are addressing.

(1-2 pages, single spaced)

Reflection Questions

1. Describe the similarities in perspective on the problem, causes, and potential solutions to the Issue between the U.S. and the country you visited.
2. Describe the differences in perspectives on the problem, causes, and potential solutions to the Issue between the U.S. and the country you visited.

Topics or Issues

Information, Innovation, and Technology — including issues related to media, privacy, access, transparency, intellectual property, ethics, economics, creativity, education, politics, etc.	Health – including issues related to equity, disparities, health systems, finance, ethics, access, quality of care, safety, happiness, human development, genetics, etc.	Human Rights – including issues related to political systems, power, war, peace, violence, terrorism, wealth, poverty, privacy, religion, gender, women, children, disabilities, labor, aging incarceration, torture, etc.
Identity — including issues related to gender, sexuality, religion, culture, race, class, family, community, difference, education, technology, etc.	Globalization – including issues related to capitalism, economic justice, health, migration and immigration, communication, borders, education, etc.	Sustainability — including issues related to the environment, population, natural resources, economic development, social justice, energy, etc.

STEP 2 of 4 – Complete this section of the form

Name	
Gnumber	
Email	
Host country	
Semester you studied abroad	
Name of your host institution abroad	

STEP 3 of 4 – Identify the courses you want to propose to use towards the Issues requirement.

Notice: Independent study, independent research, and independent readings cannot be used towards the Issues requirement. (XXX399 and XXX499 courses)

GVSU FACULTY-LED PARTICIPANTS

Please check here if you participated in a GVSU faculty-led study abroad program.

Faculty-led participants must take two courses abroad that are from two different disciplines, otherwise, only one course can be used to fulfill an Issues requirement. Please list the course(s) you completed abroad through the faculty-led program that you want to use towards your Issues requirement.

Faculty-led Course 1	
Faculty-led Course 2	

ALL OTHER STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS

List the course(s) you would like to use towards your Issues requirement. Be sure to list the title of the GVSU course rather than the overseas course, otherwise your proposal will not be valid. If you are unsure of how your courses are transferring back to GVSU, please contact Ehren Kuzekov at kuzekove@gvsu.edu.

GVSU Equivalent 1	
GVSU Equivalent 2	

STEP 4 of 4 – Submit your proposal

Email this document with your essay to gened@gvsu.edu within 60 days of your return from study abroad. If it is past 60 days, please contact gened@gvsu.edu.

The email subject line should read as follows:

Reflection – your name (for example: Reflection – Joan Smith)

Once your reflection has been reviewed, you and Records will receive an email approval that will allow you to use the courses proposed to fulfill your Issues requirement.

Notice:

Courses taken abroad that are used to fulfill the Issues General Education requirement cannot be used to fulfill a General Education Foundations requirement. Students must choose between fulfilling the Issues requirement or fulfilling a Foundations requirement.

For more information about the General Education Program, visit: www.gvsu.edu/gened