



Eligibility Criteria Policy for Student Participation in Short-Term, Faculty-Led Study Abroad Programs 2024-25

Policy Overview:

Davenport University supports students in gaining global exposure through short-term faculty-led study abroad programs. These programs aim to enhance students' academic and cultural experiences while ensuring their readiness for international travel. This policy outlines the minimum eligibility requirements and potential disqualifiers for participation in these programs.

1. Eligibility Criteria

1.1 Academic Requirements

- **Minimum GPA:** Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 at the time of application and must maintain this GPA until departure.
- **Good Academic Standing:** Students must be in good academic standing, with no academic probation or recent academic suspensions. Previous academic probations or dismissals may be considered in determining eligibility.
- **Prerequisite Coursework (If Applicable):** Certain programs have specific academic prerequisites or recommended courses to prepare students for the program's subject matter.

1.2 Enrollment Status

- **Full-Time Enrollment:** Only currently enrolled, degree-seeking, full-time students at Davenport University are eligible to participate in faculty-led study abroad programs.

Class Standing:

- **First-Year Students:** Students must complete at least one full semester before participating. Some programs may accept first-year students conditionally, depending on academic preparedness.
- **Seniors:** Senior students may participate but should consult with their academic advisor, as transcript processing may delay graduation if the study abroad program occurs in their final semester.

1.3 Conduct and Disciplinary Standing

- **Good Disciplinary Record:** Students must have no pending disciplinary actions or unresolved conduct issues. Students on disciplinary probation or suspension at the time of application or prior to departure will be ineligible.
- **Adherence to University and Program Standards:** Students are expected to uphold Davenport University's conduct standards and the host country's laws during their time abroad. Violations of conduct policies may result in removal from the program at the student's expense.

1.4 Health and Safety

- **Health and Medical Clearance:** Students may be required to complete a health clearance form, especially if traveling to regions with unique health considerations. Also see the Accommodations policy and process below.
- **Adherence to Safety Protocols:** All participants must agree to follow program-specific safety guidelines, including any health or vaccination requirements set by the host country or program.

1.5 Financial Preparedness

- **Program Costs and Financial Responsibility:** Students must demonstrate financial preparedness by arranging funding, whether through scholarships, personal funds, or financial aid. Participants must also submit a non-refundable program deposit by the deadline set by Davenport University.

2. Disqualifying Factors

- **2.1 Academic Probation or Suspension**
Students on academic probation or recently suspended from the university will not be eligible to participate.
- **2.2 Disciplinary Sanctions**
Any current disciplinary sanctions, such as probation or a record of significant past incidents, may disqualify a student from participation.
- **2.3 Failure to Meet Financial Deadlines**
Students who fail to pay program fees or deposits by the specified deadlines may lose their spot in the program.

3. Application Process and Verification

- Students interested in participating in a faculty-led study abroad program must complete an application that includes academic and conduct record verification. All applications are reviewed to ensure students meet the eligibility criteria outlined in this policy. Students are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time for financial, academic, and health preparations.

This policy aims to support Davenport University's commitment to providing transformative educational experiences while ensuring participants are prepared for the demands of studying abroad.

Accommodations Policy and Process for Study Abroad

Davenport University is committed to providing accessible and inclusive learning experiences for all students participating in short-term, faculty-led study abroad programs. Recognizing that accommodations available on domestic campuses may not always be available or equivalent abroad, this policy provides guidelines for students needing accommodations while ensuring compliance with host country laws and logistical limitations. Please note that U.S. legal standards, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), may not apply abroad. As such, students may encounter differences in accessibility standards, infrastructure, and resources.

1. Accommodation Request and Disclosure Process

1.1 Early Disclosure Requirement

- **Advance Planning:** Students requiring accommodations must disclose their needs as early as possible in the application process. Early disclosure allows Davenport University's Global Programs Office and Disability Services to collaborate with program staff and in-country partners to evaluate and arrange feasible accommodations.
- **Deadline:** Students are encouraged to submit their accommodation request no later than 60 days before the program start date to ensure adequate planning time.

1.2 Consultation and Documentation

- **Initial Consultation:** Upon submitting an accommodation request, students will meet with Davenport's Disability Services to discuss specific needs, limitations, and strategies for addressing accessibility in the host country.
- **Required Documentation:** Students may need to provide medical or disability documentation.

2. Types of Accommodations Provided

2.1 Academic Accommodations

- **Classroom Adjustments:** Accommodations, such as extended time on exams or access to assistive technology, may be arranged in coordination with program faculty and local academic institutions, where possible.

2.2 Housing and Mobility Accommodations

- **Accessible Housing:** Davenport University will strive to secure accessible housing for students who require it. Availability may vary depending on the destination, and in cases where accessible housing is limited, students should expect to work closely with Disability Services to determine the best alternative.
- **Transportation Support:** For students needing mobility assistance, Davenport may help arrange transportation support in the host country. Students are also encouraged to consult with airlines and local transport providers independently to ensure necessary accommodations are in place for travel and excursions

- **Student Provided Support:** Students with serious mobility or other health challenges may be required to provide a personal care assistant to accompany them on the study abroad program. This would be at the student's expense and the assistant would be subject to a criminal background check and drug screen as part of the vetting and approval process.

3. Limitations and Student Responsibilities

3.1 Host Country Legal and Cultural Differences

- **Legal Constraints:** U.S. legal standards, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), may not apply abroad. As such, students may encounter differences in accessibility standards, infrastructure, and resources.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Students are advised to be prepared for varying cultural attitudes towards disability. Davenport will provide guidance on how to navigate these differences and promote understanding with local partners.

3.2 Personal Preparation and Self-Advocacy

- **Medical Supplies and Assistive Devices:** Students are responsible for bringing their own medications, mobility aids, or assistive devices that may not be readily available or permitted in the host country. Students should consult with Disability Services and review relevant travel advisories to ensure compliance with host country regulations.
- **Proactive Engagement:** Students are encouraged to proactively engage with faculty and in-country partners to ensure that their needs are communicated and addressed effectively.

4. Accommodation Review and Finalization

- **Finalization:** Davenport's Disability Services will work with the student to approve all granted accommodations pre-departure.
- **Ongoing Support:** Davenport's Disability Services will remain available to address issues that may arise once students are abroad. Students should maintain regular communication to facilitate adjustments if required.

This policy is intended to uphold Davenport University's commitment to accessibility while promoting independence, cultural adaptability, and proactive planning. Students are encouraged to discuss any additional questions with Davenport's Global Programs Office or Disability Services before departure.