

Guidelines for Reviewing your Statement of Purpose

Whether you are applying to the CSU IP 1-Year Program or a 1-Semester Exchange Program. The objective of your Statement of Purpose (SoP) is to provide the selection panel with additional elements regarding yourself, your goals and your study abroad application. It should explain why YOU, as a person, student and future professional chose THIS PROGRAM, UNIVERSITY, COUNTRY as your choice. The selection panel does not want to read general statements about why study abroad is a great experience (they already know that) they want to read why this experience can uniquely help you.

Directly on the application, above the space dedicated to the statement of purpose, you will find questions to help you apprehend this writing exercise. For CSU IP and 1-Semester Exchange, they are very similar.

Before you begin we strongly suggest that you visit the University Writing Center (UWC). If you do visit the UWC ask for “the stamp” which will prove that you have visited them in order to best improve your SoP. We are looking for students who work hard to earn this study abroad opportunity

The [CI University Writing Center](#) offers free one-to-one writing help to students at any stage of their writing process. Contact them at writing.tutors@csuci.edu.

CSU IP -1 Year/ 1-Semester Exchange Program Application questions:

- Please indicate the extent of which your coursework and educational experience have prepared you to study abroad.
- Discuss how overseas study will contribute to your academic and career goals.
- If you do not meet the minimum requirements, you **must** explain and extenuating circumstances.

Below you will find some elements that must be addressed in your statement as well as generic examples. You can ask yourself or be interviewed by a friend or a peer mentor with the questions provided. It can be a good start to find inspiration or a good check list to review your final document.

1. Background

For this part ask yourself this: How am I prepared for this opportunity?

1.1. Personally

1.2. Academically

Example: You took extra classes during this semester, interned with a company, or have volunteered at an organization.

2. Academics

For this part ask yourself this: How is this program a good academic fit?

2.1. In terms of opportunities

2.2. In terms of classes

2.3. From an extracurricular perspective

Example: Sufficient amount of courses that are available for my major or a special course that is available only at this particular program.

3. Future/Career

For this part ask yourself this: How will this program help me in my future career/life?

3.1. Job opportunities

3.2. Gain international competency

3.3. Graduate studies

3.4. Working abroad

Example: 1) This experience will give me global-competencies such as... relevant to my future career as a... because... 2) I will learn how to interact with diverse people and environment that will be critical for certain aspects of my career which are...