

CSUCI INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

GUIDELINES: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This document is intended as a guide to writing your 1-2 page Statement of Purpose for your exchange application. However, you have the freedom to construct your statement in whatever way you deem most appropriate.

What is the Statement of Purpose?

The objective of the Statement of Purpose is to provide the selection panel with information they would not be able to gather from other parts of your application. This is your chance to elaborate on yourself, your goals, and your interest in the program in which you are applying.

What elements should a Statement of Purpose include?

The statement should explain why you (as a person, student, and future professional) chose *this university* and *this country* and your choice for study abroad. The selection committee will be more impressed with specific information about the program rather than generic interest in study abroad.

Here is one way to think about your Statement of Purpose:

1. **Background:** How has your academic or personal background prepared you for this opportunity? How have you explored on your own the culture and/or language of this host country?
2. **Current Academic Goals:** How does the program align to your academic goals? Why is the program a good “fit” for you academically?
3. **Future Professional Goals:** How will this program shape your future career path or life goals? What skills do you hope to gain from your participation in the program? How will these skills transfer to your future career?

Here is another way to think about drafting your Statement of Purpose (question stems courtesy of CSU IP):

1. **Program Choice:** Why did you choose this particular study abroad program?
2. **Academic Preparedness:** Explain how your coursework and educational experience have prepared you to study abroad.
3. **Impact of Study Abroad:** What do you hope to get out of your time abroad? How do you think study abroad will impact you academically and in your career path? How do you want your study abroad experience to affect you in terms of personal growth and global awareness?

Other Helpful Resources

- Visit the Writing & Multiliteracy Center (<https://www.csuci.edu/wmc/> or Broome 2675) to have them review your Statement of Purpose and make suggestions for improvement.
- Talk it out. Chat through the question stems with a friend/family member prior to writing to capture your ideas.
- Question stems may help with study abroad scholarships as well. Visit go.csuci.edu/study-abroad for access to study abroad scholarship resources.