The University of Oklahoma

Study Abroad Eligibility Policy

I. Eligibility Requirements

A. To be eligible to participate in a Semester or Academic Year OU-sponsored study abroad program, a student must:

1. Have a minimum Combined Retention GPA of 2.5 at the time of application submission;
2. Be in good academic standing at OU and remain in good academic standing throughout the duration of the program;
3. Be in good standing with the OU Office of Student Conduct and remain in good standing throughout the duration of the program;
4. Be enrolled full-time at OU the semester prior to the study abroad program term;
5. Be a degree-seeking student at OU when the study abroad program takes place;
6. Have completed 2 semesters of college-level work, which must have been completed in residence as a full-time student on a college and/or university campus; and
7. Complete program-specific pre-requisites (some programs may require a higher GPA, language courses, or other area studies pre-requisites).

B. To be eligible to participate in a Summer OU-sponsored study abroad program, a student must:

1. Have a minimum Combined Retention GPA of 2.5 at the time of application submission;
2. Be in good academic standing at his/her current institution of study and remain in good academic standing throughout the duration of the program;
3. Be in good standing with the Office of Student Conduct at his/her current institution of study and remain in good standing throughout the duration of the program;
4. Enroll at OU as a Visitor Student for the study abroad program term;
5. Be a degree-seeking student at a college or university when the study abroad program takes place;
6. Have completed 2 semesters of college-level work, which must have been completed in residence as a full-time student on a college and/or university campus; and
7. Complete program-specific pre-requisites (some programs may require a higher GPA, language courses, or other area studies pre-requisites).
II. Exceptions to the Combined Retention GPA Requirement

A. The Combined Retention GPA requirement is set to ensure that a student can succeed academically in a new and challenging environment without extensive academic support systems or resources.

B. An exception to the GPA requirement may be requested by submitting a petition to the Office of Education Abroad by the deadline set forth on the Petition Form.

C. A copy of the Petition Form is located at http://www.ou.edu/content/cis/education_abroad/getting-started.html. A copy of the Petition Form may also be obtained from the Office of Education Abroad.

D. The Vice Provost of International Programs and/or his/her designee will review and approve or deny submitted petitions.

E. The following criteria will be considered when assessing exceptions to the Combined Retention GPA requirement:
   
   1. Any particular academic challenges faced or any extenuating circumstances
   2. Strong grades in courses relevant to the study abroad program (language, area studies, other courses with relevant content to the program)
   3. GPA in the academic major/minor
   4. Academic improvement over the previous two semesters
   5. Letters of recommendation from faculty members indicating positive academic performance in recent courses

III. Exceptions to the requirement to be full-time enrolled at OU the semester prior to a study abroad program:

A. An exception to this requirement may be requested by submitting a petition to the Office of Education Abroad by the deadline set forth on the Petition Form.

B. A copy of the Petition Form is located at http://www.ou.edu/content/cis/education_abroad/getting-started.html. A copy of the Petition Form may also be obtained from the Office of Education Abroad.

C. The Vice Provost of International Programs and/or his/her designee(s) will review and approve or deny submitted petitions.

D. The following criteria will be considered when assessing exceptions to this policy:
   
   1. Financial challenges faced or extenuating circumstances that necessitate working more than 20 hours per week
   2. Above average grades in courses relevant to the study abroad program (language, area studies, other courses with relevant content to the program)
   3. GPA in the academic major/minor
   4. Proof of participation in an internship, academic or career related activity, or full-time employment
E. Petitions will be automatically denied if:

1. The petition is incomplete.
2. The petition is not submitted prior to the deadline set forth on the Petition Form.
3. The student has knowingly provided false information in his/her petition.

Contacts

Policy Questions: Director of Education Abroad
405-325-1693 or ea@ou.edu

Forms

In support of this policy, the following form(s) are included:

Study Abroad GPA Exception Petition Form

http://www.ou.edu/content/cis/education_abroad/getting-started.html