

Personal Statement

The Personal Statement is a critical component of the application process as it is the primary means by which the applicant communicates a) the academic appropriateness of the proposed program of study, and b) his/her preparedness for living and learning overseas. As with any formal piece of writing, the personal statement should be proofread and free of errors before submission. The essay should be typed, single-spaced and no more than 2 pages in length.

Instructions

Students who fully engage in the study abroad experience will be rewarded with unique opportunities for personal growth, academic achievement, and increased cultural awareness. With these goals in mind, incorporate into your personal statement thoughtful answers to the questions below. An essay that fails to address these questions will be returned to the applicant.

1. How will participation in your proposed study abroad program contribute to your overall academic goals and objectives? Include in your discussion an overview of how the classes you plan to take (or the program in which you plan to participate) relate to your major, minor or demonstrated academic interests.
2. Integrated into the mission of Saint Michael's College is the intent to prepare students "for lifelong learning in a global society." What does "global citizenship" mean to you, and how does your proposed plan for study abroad relate to this concept?
3. What aspects of your new host country and culture are you most interested in learning about and experiencing? What facets of your own culture are you looking forward to sharing with your host community?
4. Consideration of a student's grade point average AND disciplinary record are important aspects of the application review process. An applicant with a cumulative GPA lower than the required 3.0, and/or who has a disciplinary record of any kind on file (e.g. probation, warning) should address these concerns in the Personal Statement.