

# TRAVEL EXPLORATION

## Experiential Education and Learning (ExEL) Agreement

Congratulations on beginning your journey to study abroad and in doing so, fulfilling an Experiential Education and Learning (ExEL) unit requirement! Below you will find each step you need to take before you leave on your trip as well as what will be expected of you during your travel and upon your return. NSU aims for this to be a transformational experience in your life both, personally and professionally.

*Please print this booklet and complete all the steps below to earn your ExEL Units. Once done, please submit to the Office of International Affairs- Horvitz Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.*

### I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ NSU ID \_\_\_\_\_  
Term of Trip \_\_\_\_\_ Start and End Dates \_\_\_\_\_  
Destination \_\_\_\_\_ University/Provider \_\_\_\_\_

### II. YOUR GLOBAL LEARNING VALUES

Before you go, please reflect on your values as a global learner using the **Global Learning Value Rubric**. You will find the **Global Learning Value Rubric** within your Pre-Departure e-Resource Guide.

- a. For each value, assess where you consider yourself to be on the scale from 1-4. At this point in your life, you are most likely not a 4 for any of the values; allow room for growth. The Study Abroad experience you are about to embark on will be a platform for such growth to take place.

### III. KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR DESTINATION

The more you know before you leave, the more comfortable you will be when you arrive. Use our website (<http://sharksabroad.wixsite.com/education-abroad-nsu>) to help you find information, however, feel free to do your own research. Below are some questions for you to think about when completing your Pre-Departure e-Resource Guide.

- How old is the country? What are some historical events that have taken place in the country that may shape its culture today? For example, involvement in any world wars or civil wars? Did it seek independence/was it previously colonized?
- Are there multiple cultures that make up the people of this country? Are there indigenous lands/people?
- What are some current events and social topics/issues that are prominent discussions in the country you are visiting?
- What is the socio economic standing in the country you are visiting? What is the thriving industry or most important good for trade in the World Market? What good is this country known for, if any?
- Are there political parties? What are they—who is the President and what party does she/he represent? Do they have a historically influential leader?

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- Learn about the culture—what is a common dish? What is popular or culturally historical type of music? Is there a type of dance that accompanies it?
- What are the most popular land marks—what do these land marks represent to the people of this country?

### IV. STUDY ABROAD AND YOUR PROFESSIONAL GOALS

- a. Think about your field of study or personal interest and how your upcoming Study Abroad experience will benefit and impact your professional goals. Is there anything you wish to inquire about or participate in that may directly relate to a career you may be interested in?
- b. Although it is not required, we would like to *recommend* you seek an opportunity for an experience related to your major or potential professional interests. We encourage you to explore areas of interests that may be outside of your major as well.
  - For Example, if you are a Criminal Justice major, visit a local police station and speak to a police officer, or visit a government building and learn more about their justice system. Biology majors, visit a local clinic, speak to a doctor and inquire about their health care system. Education majors, visit a local public school, what is their education system like, Art majors, visit local museums and speak to the historian or coordinator, visit the theatre and maybe offer to assist with an upcoming show! You can be as creative as you wish with seeking a professional experience.
- c. These types of experiences will be helpful to add to your ExEL portfolio & Capstone project, and they will certainly be helpful as you prepare for your future job interviews.
- d. Due to safety concerns, you **must** speak to your local Study Abroad Coordinator and get prior approval before engaging in this experience. Your Study Abroad Coordinator will also be able to assist you in finding you an opportunity to participate in.
- e. If you decide to seek an opportunity like this please complete the following information: (You can add an extra page for this)

Name of Business/Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates of visit/involvement \_\_\_\_\_  
Tasks performed \_\_\_\_\_  
Brief Impressions/Reflections \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### V. PRE-DEPARTURE PREPARATION

- a. Please visit: <http://www.nova.edu/internationalaffairs/travel-study-abroad/study-abroad/steps.html> and select “Education Abroad Document Packet” for a complete list and link for all forms you must submit to the Office of International Affairs prior to leaving.

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- b. All forms must be submitted the Office of International Affairs through the Study Abroad Pre-Departure Checklist page.

### VI. WHILE YOU ARE ABROAD

During your trip, you are required to complete a Progress Report. This report is an opportunity for you to reflect on your trip and as well as reflect on your assumptions and expectations before you left.

Progress Report

- a. Visit <http://www.nova.edu/internationalaffairs/travel-study-abroad/study-abroad/steps.html> and click on “Study Abroad Progress Report” link within the “While You Are There” tab.
- b. This Progress Report is due 2 weeks after departure for a summer program and 8 weeks from departure for a fall or winter program. Please submit this form to the Office of International Affairs at [sharksabroad@nova.edu](mailto:sharksabroad@nova.edu) .

### VII. UPON YOUR RETURN

Now that you have returned from what we hope was an amazing experience abroad, it is important to reflect and identify how you are going to capitalize on you experience, translating it to tangible skills to be applied and valuable in your search for a job and or internship.

#### Reflection

- a. Visit <http://www.nova.edu/internationalaffairs/travel-study-abroad/study-abroad/steps.html> and click on “Study Abroad Final Report” link within the “Upon Your Return” menu option.
- b. The final page of the Final Report is a “**Career Development Office- Confirmation of Post-Arrival Visit**”. You will need to submit this form, after obtaining all appropriate signatures from the Office of Career Development to the Office of International Affairs at [sharksabroad@nova.edu](mailto:sharksabroad@nova.edu) .

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### ExEL UNIT COMPLIANCE

I have read and understood all Experiential Education and Learning (ExEL) Study Abroad expectations and requirements as stated above. I understand that failure to complete these requirements will jeopardize my **Study Abroad Experiences’ ExEL designation**, therefore I would not earn the appropriate ExEL units towards my graduation requirement.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NSU ID \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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