



During your term abroad, you may earn credit through the HR 4820: Honors Study Abroad course experience. This course counts towards your out-of-class requirements for the Honors Program.

In order to earn credit, you must:

1. **Complete** the HR4820 (Honors Study Abroad) [interest form](#). Completion of this form is required before the Honors Program will register you for HR4820 credit.
2. **Complete** a Pre-Departure Essay (3-5 pages) *before* you leave for your study abroad destination.
3. **Write** two “Moment Under a Microscope” essays (3-4 pages each), one during each half of the semester.
4. **Conduct** a Mini Ethnographic Study (4-5 pages) by the end of the semester.
5. **Compose** a Re-Entry Essay (4-5 pages) one month *after* your return to the United States.

Assignment Descriptions

Pre-Departure Essay:

This assignment will be due *before* you leave for your study abroad destination. You will discuss your expectations for your study abroad experience by responding to a series of questions. Then, you will create a “sojourn action plan,” where you will consider your strengths and weaknesses in the following areas: personal autonomy, emotional resilience, flexibility/inclusiveness, and perceptual acuity.

“Moment Under A Microscope” Essay:

You will compose two essays (one during each half of the semester) in which you focus on a specific incident, event, or encounter that prompted reflection on similarities or differences between your cultural perspective and that of your host country. You may discuss your preexisting beliefs, attitudes, behaviors, etc. Critical incidents may include issues related to family, transportation, food culture, religion, public health, or a whole range of other topics that comprise a study abroad experience.

Mini Ethnographic Study:

For this assignment, you will attempt to make sense of the cultural conventions of your host culture by carrying out a (very limited) ethnographic study. This study will be informed by sustained observations in a public place (e.g., a restaurant, a public park or square, market, etc.). To accomplish this task, you will take on the role of participant-observer, dedicating at least two separate 30-minute intervals to sustained, focused observation of your chosen site. The assignment will consist of field notes and a hybrid ethnography/reflection paper.

Re-Entry Essay:

This assignment will be due one month *after* your return to the United States. In this essay, you will reflect on your time abroad (most important experiences, biggest challenge/regret) and your transition back to the U.S. (new habits/behaviors, changes to friendships/relationships, tangible skills gained). You will also articulate how you will explain the value of your experience to potential employers/graduate schools.