

## **GUIDELINES for the Statement of Purpose**

**Format:** Your statement should be written in standard essay format with your name, country of interest, and page numbers on each page. The essay should be no longer than one page, unless otherwise specified in your application instructions.

**Content:** Your statement should be sensitive to the host culture and contain well-researched, accurate information relating to the host country. Within one cohesive essay, respond concisely to the following questions.

### **What are your educational goals for your UCEAP option?**

- What attracted you academically to the program or host institution?
- How does the program complement your studies at UC (credit for your major, minor, general education (GE), or breadth requirements, and/or academic work outside your major field of study)?
- What types of courses and other educational opportunities available abroad are not offered at UC?
- How are you preparing to achieve your educational goals on UCEAP?

### **What are your personal goals/interests for your UCEAP option?**

- What political, cultural or social issues interest you at home and in the host country?
- What interests or life experiences have influenced your choice of UCEAP program/country (e.g., Have you ever visited your host country)?
- How does the program relate to your future goals?
- How are you preparing to achieve your personal goals on UCEAP?

# Writing Tips for Your Study Abroad Application Essay

Sentences like, "I am excited to learn about the culture of Scotland through golf," are a good start, but something even better might be, "It would be the pinnacle of my golfing career to experience the game of golf in its finest form in its birthplace of Scotland. There, golf is not just considered a sport, but also a vital element of Scottish culture." Make the effort to write with quality in mind and of course honesty.

End the essay with a strong closing paragraph. Express interest in learning about local culture, such as in Japan where you'll enjoy both the historic artistry of the culture and the modern amenities of the country. Talk about getting an education, not only in terms of academics, but in life as well. Be specific and explain your desire to pursue those interests and hobbies that you've picked up in college, and earlier, in a foreign country.

This is just as important as any other admissions letter you've ever written. Use correct grammar and avoid spelling mistakes. Write multiple drafts and have someone competent edit it for you. Better yet, have two. And of course, get it in on time!

Be sincere, be honest, and be smart.