

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP TESTIMONIAL REQUIREMENT**

Congratulations once again on receiving a study abroad scholarship! As a recipient, you are required to provide the Office of Study Abroad with a written testimonial and a few photos showcasing your experience abroad. Your submission will be used to communicate to our scholarship donors how much their support means to our students, and to inform future participants about the incredible study abroad opportunities here at MSU.

Below is a series of guidelines you should use when writing your testimonial. We want to hear a first-person account that focuses on a particular example of how your experience abroad played a role in your academic and intercultural growth. In addition, we'd like you to provide 2-3 photos of yourself while abroad that we can use in combination with your testimonial.

**Your submission will be due within 30 days of your return to the U.S. and should be sent via email to [studyabroad@isp.msu.edu](mailto:studyabroad@isp.msu.edu).**

Good luck and best wishes to you for a successful international learning experience.

### **GUIDELINES**

#### **Written testimonial**

1. Include at the top of the page:
  - Name
  - Status (freshman, sophomore, etc.)
  - Major
  - Hometown
  - Name and location of your program
  - Semester and year you participated
2. We'd like to hear about something you did or participated in that tells us about your study abroad experience. What unique events or encounters did you face that highlights how study abroad is different than studying on campus? Suggestions of topics to write about might include:
  - how the experience enhanced your academic pursuits
  - how the experience affected you on a personal level
  - how the experience aided you in learning or improving your ability to communicate in a non-English language
  - how you learned from the host culture
3. Be sure to include details: vivid, descriptive text (sights, sounds, smells, and tastes), humor, enthusiasm, surprise, etc.
4. Other things to consider:
  - Does your story relate to other students? Can they see themselves in your shoes? Will it excite parents, friends, donors, alumni? Will it speak to the academic aspect of your experience?
  - Can you "bust a myth" about study abroad? Did you have prior ideas about what it would be like only to find out they weren't true?
  - Can you provide a different perspective? Are you a student from an under-represented racial or ethnic group? A first generation college student? From a low income family? A student with a disability? A male?
5. Your testimonial should be between 300 and 500 words (or one full page).

#### **Photos**

- You should be in the photo(s)
- A maximum of three (3) photos may be submitted
- Photos should be in a jpg format and may be submitted via email along with your testimonial