Student Monitoring and Experiential Learning Plan

The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM) Summer Study Abroad Summer Program in Kobe, Japan provides students with an exciting opportunity to broaden one’s educational and life experiences. The knowledge and skills you will gain through your study abroad experience will enrich your life.

In alignment with the Study Abroad Program student learning outcomes and through the assignments and discussions which you will complete during your six weeks in Kobe, Japan, you will:

(1) Demonstrate awareness of your own cultural values and biases and how these impact your ability to work with others;

(2) Demonstrate knowledge of diversity with a focus on the population or topic of interest in your Study Abroad program;

(3) Communicate appropriately and effectively with diverse individuals and groups;

(4) Demonstrate an increased capacity to analyze issues with appreciation for disparate viewpoints.

As the Faculty Resident Director (FRD), I am here to help you make the most of your six weeks in Japan. I am looking forward to this wonderful shared experience with you. In addition to our scheduled face-to-face meetings, please do not hesitate to contact me (in person, via email or phone) if you need to talk.

Experiential Learning Plan

To help you make the most of your study abroad program, you will be required to reflect on your experiences over the next six weeks. Self-reflection is a critical skill that will serve you well during your study abroad program as well as in future personal and professional endeavors. I will provide you with questions and prompts to help guide your self-reflection process.

Written Self-Reflections (60 points total)
Students are required to submit a total of three written self-reflections (20 points each). The purpose of this assignment is to guide the development of your reflection skills on your Japan experience. You will write responses to the reflection questions/prompts provided by me (see page 2). You can also include additional information, as appropriate. A typical written response should be a minimum of three computer generated, double-spaced pages in length with 1 inch margins. You may also include relevant photographs or other visuals in addition to the three typewritten pages. Written self-reflections are due on the 2nd, 4th, and 6th Tuesday of the program. Please upload your self-reflections to
Written Self-Reflection Questions/Prompts
To help guide and organize your thoughts, you will write a minimum 3-page response to the following reflection questions.

1. **Reflection assignment #1 (due on Tuesday of Week 2):** Now that you have lived in Japan for two weeks, describe a notable experience you encountered since your arrival two weeks ago. This could include something you saw as a bystander or an interaction you directly experienced that stuck you as interesting and/or caught you by surprise. What was it about the experience that captured your attention? Why was it different from what you would expect in your home country? How did you respond? Why?

2. **Reflection #2 (due on Tuesday of Week 4):** Now that you have lived in Japan for four weeks, describe two things you have learned about Japanese culture that you did not know before your arrival. What does your new knowledge tell you about Japan and its people? How are these two things similar/different to your own culture?

3. **Reflection #3 (due on Tuesday of Week 6):** Now that you have lived in Japan for six weeks, describe two ways in which you feel you have changed because of this experience. How do you feel these changes will impact your return to your home country? How has this experience changed you for the better? Will you live your life differently as a result of your six-week experience in Japan?

**Individual Meetings with RFD (30 points total)**
You are required to attend **two individual meetings with me (15 points each)** that will be held on the 3rd and 5th weeks of the program. We will work out a schedule and I will let you know the date/time/location of our meeting. The meeting will be approximately 30 minutes in length, longer if needed. The purpose of these individual meetings is to give you the opportunity to discuss with me your perceptions and reflections of your ongoing Japan experience as a follow up to your written reflections submitted the prior week. Please let me know right away if you are unable to attend the meeting due to illness. Points will be deducted for unexcused tardies. No points will be given for unexcused absences.

**Initial Group Meeting (10 points total)**
We will have a whole group meeting during your first week in Japan. The purpose of this group meeting is to get acquainted with each other as well as give us an opportunity to discuss the expectations and requirements outlined in this learning plan in more detail.
Individual Appointments as Needed
In addition to the two scheduled face-to-face meetings, I will be available for individual appointments, as needed. If you are experiencing difficulty, please contact me (via email, phone, or in-person) right away.

Student Assessment

Written reflections and discussions will be evaluated using the rubric below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Unacceptable</th>
<th>Acceptable</th>
<th>Exemplary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrates awareness of own cultural values and biases and how these impact their ability to work with others</td>
<td>Student is: -unable/unwilling to demonstrate cultural awareness -unable/unwilling to identify personal biases -unable/unwilling to understand its impact on working with others</td>
<td>Student is able to: -demonstrate cultural awareness -identify biases -understand its impact on working with others</td>
<td>All criteria in Acceptable plus: -Student makes adjustments in behavior/attitude in an effort to improve working with others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 points</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Demonstrates knowledge of diversity with a focus on the population or topic of interest in your Study Abroad program</td>
<td>Student is: -unwilling/unable to describe basic aspects of Japanese culture -unwilling/unable to accept basic aspects of Japanese culture</td>
<td>Student is able to: -describe aspects of Japanese culture through personal observation -accept aspects of Japanese culture</td>
<td>All criteria in Acceptable plus: -student takes initiative to learn more about Japan and Japanese culture to further learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 points</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicates appropriately and effectively with diverse individuals and groups</td>
<td>Communication is: -unclear -inappropriate to the situation -disrespectful -does not contribute (or contributes negatively) to the discussion</td>
<td>Communication is: -clear -appropriate to the situation -respectful -positively adds to the discussion</td>
<td>All criteria in Acceptable plus: -thoughts are articulated well; insightful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 points</td>
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Demonstrates an increased capacity to analyze issues with appreciation for disparate viewpoints

4 points

Student: - is unable/unwilling to analyze issues - is unable/unwilling to take into account different perspectives

Student is able to: - analyze issues at a basic level; - is able to take into account another perspective;

All criteria in Acceptable plus: - is able to take multiple perspectives into account;

Paper mechanics (written reflections only)

4 points

Written reflection: - is not within the specified page range - lacks detail - does not address the questions/prompts - is incomplete - is late

Written reflection: - is within 3-page limit; - provides adequate detail - addresses the questions/prompts

All criteria met in Acceptable plus: - provides a comprehensive narrative with rich detail

Grades will be based on the following scale:

- 100 – 90 total points = A
- 89 – 80 total points = B
- 79 – 70 total points = C
- 69 – 60 total points = D
- 59 total points and below = F

Summer Assignment Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Initial Group Meeting</td>
<td>To Be Announced (TBA)</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Written Self-Reflection</td>
<td>Upload to Laulima</td>
<td>20 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Individual Meeting with FRD</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>15 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Written Self-Reflection</td>
<td>Upload to Laulima</td>
<td>20 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Individual Meeting with FRD</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>15 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Written Self-Reflection</td>
<td>Upload to Laulima</td>
<td>20 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total possible points: 100 points