

International Education Committee

Domestic Study-Away Program Evaluation Criteria

New and existing programs that feature significant time away from campus and outside the classroom will be evaluated on the basis of Puget Sound's objectives for study away experiences. Specifically, the IEC evaluates and approves programs that are an integrated part of an academic course, and which last a week or more (at least seven full days of programming) away from campus. Approval will be granted to programs that substantively incorporate the goals and practices shown to most effectively achieve the University's objectives, as assessed through the rubric below.

The rubric below is intended to assess program impact through the following thematic criteria:

- 1. Integration into the Academic Curriculum**
- 2. High Impact Program Design**
- 3. Consistency with Institutional Values and Priorities**

These criteria are meant to help guide faculty as they develop their own study away programs, or as they seek to integrate provider-based programs into the University curriculum. For both faculty-led and provider programs, approval will be contingent on the clear and substantive incorporation of these criteria into program structure and pedagogy. Beyond program approval, in situations where available resources limit the number of programs that can travel during a given year, priority will be given to programs that most robustly reflect the values and practices laid out below, which have proven to most effectively achieve Puget Sound's objectives for study away experiences.

The IEC should consider the three questions below, based on a *qualitative evaluation of program structure, content, and its relationship to institutional concerns and curricula*. Where circumstances warrant (e.g. when programs must be ranked), these questions may be scored on a scale of 0-5 (with 5 being the highest score), and the scores can then be used to compare and rank programs.

Note that individual programs might not score highly in every category, and some criteria are mutually exclusive from others, but approval should be granted only to programs with strong performance (i.e. scores of 4-5) in two or more categories.

How well is the program academically integrated into the Puget Sound curriculum?

Examples of curricular integration:

- Substantive, synthetic links between campus learning and study away.
- Enhancing the existing campus curriculum in new and important ways.
- Programs that draw on faculty expertise, including direct program design and leadership.

SCORE: _____

Is the program structured in a way likely to yield a high-impact experience?

Examples of high-impact program design elements:

- Long-term (multi-week; full semester).
- Substantive engagements with cultural difference.
- Leveraging partnerships with educational or other non-profit organizations.
- Completion of a research experience.
- Completion of a service learning experience or internship.
- Strong site utilization through interdisciplinary or discipline-based fieldwork or experiential engagement.

SCORE: _____

Is the program consistent with institutional values and priorities?

Examples of relevant institutional concerns/priorities:

- Programs that provide qualitatively different or unique experiences, as compared with those already offered, and which address the University's objectives for experiential education.
- Programs that allow students in a particular major/field/department opportunities to better study topics/material that contribute to their field of study.
- Programs that draw student populations that are historically underrepresented.
- Programs with reasonable costs.
- Programs with clear and effective procedures to ensure student well-being and safety (including response to instances of sexual violence).

SCORE: _____