

Personal Statement

The Personal Statement is a critical component of the application process as it is the primary means by which the applicant communicates a) the academic appropriateness of the proposed program of study, and b) his/her preparedness for living and learning overseas. As with any formal piece of writing, the personal statement should be proofread and free of errors before submission. The essay should be typed, single-spaced and no more than 2 pages in length.

Instructions

Students who fully engage in the study abroad experience will be rewarded with unique opportunities for personal growth, academic achievement, and increased cultural awareness. With these goals in mind, incorporate into your personal statement thoughtful answers to the questions below. An essay that fails to address these questions will be returned to the applicant.

1. How will participation in your proposed study abroad program contribute to your overall academic goals and objectives? Include in your discussion an overview of how the classes you plan to take (or the program in which you plan to participate) relate to your major, minor or demonstrated academic interests.
2. The *Mission and Vision Statement* of Saint Michael's College appears at the bottom of the page. How does study abroad (and specifically your proposed plans for next semester) contribute toward these central institutional goals?
3. What aspects of your new host country and culture are you most interested in learning about and experiencing? What facets of your own culture are you looking forward to sharing with your host community?
4. If you are concerned about conditions or situations that could impact the outcome of your application (e.g. disciplinary record, GPA), address those concerns briefly in the essay.

Mission and Vision Statement

It is the Mission of Saint Michael's College to contribute through higher education to the enhancement of the human person and the advancement of human culture in light of the Catholic faith.

Vision:

- *To actively engage students with ideas developed over millennia in many world civilizations as well as those ideas from more recently emerging disciplines and assist students in the generative process of creating new understandings. For this engagement to be most productive requires that a student work closely with a faculty member who is deeply, actively, and demonstrably engaged in learning, for in a liberal arts college it is not so much acquired knowledge or personal belief that is passed on from one generation to the next, but rather curiosity and passion for the very ideas of the discipline.*
- *To encourage the development of an empathetic understanding and respect for the differing views of others derived from their history, status or unique philosophical or religious belief. Such an understanding is to be developed through proximate experience grounded in religious, philosophical and historical contexts.*
- *To take responsibility for the moral and spiritual development of each individual by employing the long Catholic intellectual tradition that sees no conflict between belief and reason. This is rooted in the belief that the world is "good" and that the dignity of each person needs to be acknowledged.*