

Author Your Story

One of our options for covering experiential learning opportunities in the college is to have student participants write a personal essay recounting their experience.

Each Author Your Story should center around the prompt, “How this experience changed you or your perspective on the world? How has this been a turning point in your BYU experience?”

The following questions should help structure your essay. Not all questions have to be answered, but use the questions as a template to craft your story.

1. What did you do on your study abroad? What were your actual activities?
2. How will this experience prepare you for your future/career?
3. What skills did you develop on the study abroad that you wouldn't get on campus?
4. How did you apply the skills you learned in class to this experience?
5. How did this experience make you a better practitioner in your field?
6. Did you have any off-the-beaten path or unplanned experiences that you found enriching?
7. What cultural connections or discoveries were you able to make through an immersive experience that you wouldn't have been able to make in the classroom?
8. What career connections were you able to foster as part of this experience?
9. What mentoring and faculty connections were you able to make?

Note: Please avoid using the word “fun” in your essay. The focus of the essays should be on how the experience benefited the participants professionally and contributed to their education, not on how much fun they had. Likewise, if a student wants to talk about what shows they watched or tourist activities they participated in, they should relate how those experiences enhanced their educational growth.