

Northwestern Study Abroad Application Review Rubric

Program Fit

It is essential that you do your research on your program of choice prior to applying to ensure that there is good alignment between your background and goals and the program offerings. Your application must demonstrate a thorough and critical understanding of the program, region, and expected outcomes. In your application, you should provide specific examples of opportunities available through your program and why those are important or interesting to you.

Pertains to: Personal Statements, Preliminary Course Plan, Interview (if applicable)

Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Program information is very well-defined with specific examples	Program information is somewhat defined with examples	Program information is described, but not clearly defined or somewhat inaccurate	Program information is lacking or inaccurate
Opportunities to engage with the host institution, community, and/or other program-specific elements are identified and described in detail Demonstrates a deep connection between program features and	Opportunities to engage with the host institution, community, and/or other program-specific elements are identified and described with moderate detail	Opportunities to engage with the host institution, community, and/or other program-specific elements are identified but vague and lacking detail	Student has no articulated plans for engagement with the host institution, community, or program abroad

Academic Readiness & Achievement

Northwestern requires that students have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above to be eligible for Northwestern programs. Students with a cumulative GPA of 2.0-2.5 will be required to provide additional documentation regarding their academic performance as it relates to their readiness for study abroad. Although cumulative GPA is reviewed, Northwestern looks more carefully at grades earned in those subjects that are offered on the Northwestern program, or “related courses.”

Pertains to: Transcript (Grades in Related Courses)

Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Mostly A grades (3.7-4.0 GPA) in related courses	A and B grades (3.3-3.7 GPA) in related courses	Mostly B grades (2.7-3.3 GPA) in related courses	A, B, and C grades (2.0-2.7 GPA) in related courses

Class Standing

Priority is typically given to students who are later in their degree progress. Class standing refers to progress toward degree, not number of years or terms at Northwestern.

Pertains to: Graduation Year

Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Fourth Year Student (Senior)	Third Year Student (Junior)	Second Year Student (Sophomore)	First Year Student

Maturity & Responsibility

Your application must demonstrate emotional sta