

May Term Essay 1

I am very interested in participating in the educational course to Costa Rica focused on health and education as a human right. This experience is ideal because it fits well with my Simpson courses and academic goals while also enabling me to make the most out of my educational experience at Simpson. I am excited to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and am prepared to make the most out of studying abroad in Costa Rica.

At Simpson, I am a junior majoring in biology and minoring in psychology. I aspire to earn my bachelor's degree from Simpson and attend graduate school in a physician's assistant program. [Thesis] The travel course to Costa Rica fits well into my studies because it [1] incorporates learning about Costa Rica's society from political and cultural perspectives in addition to exploring the natural environment. Discussing the Costa Rican universal healthcare and education policies would further my understanding of how their government sought out the needs of its people and implemented procedures to fulfil these needs; this new knowledge would then be brought back to Simpson and used as a tool to bring new ideas to government and ethics courses. While being immersed in the culture of Costa Rica, [2] I would learn how their way of life and belief system impacts the choices they make in ways that may contrast greatly with the United States. Being cognizant of another culture would [3] expand my global perspective regarding the diversity of the world. In addition, [4] interactions with native speakers would increase my proficiency and ability to communicate in the Spanish language. Lastly, [5] through visiting the Manuel Antonio National Park and Poas Volcano I would learn how biology enabled the creation of these structures and how they fit into the surrounding ecosystem.

Studying abroad in Costa Rica would help me achieve my academic goals and enhance my educational experience in multiple ways. During the nearly three weeks spent in Costa Rica, I would be with a small group of peers during all aspects of the course. This would strengthen my ability to work well in a team through practicing group collaboration and oral communication. Being able to work well in a team is vital to achieving my academic goals because group projects foster greater understanding of educational concepts and are essential to undergraduate and graduate programs. While in Costa Rica, I would learn to adapt to new environments and become more flexible in studying in a variety of settings. Being adaptable is important to academic success because learning occurs in many different environments and the ability to easily transition between various settings will ensure greater understanding of the concepts being taught.

Participating in the May Term travel course to Costa Rica offers nearly endless opportunities for me to grow as a student and achieve my academic goals. This study abroad experience would serve as a capstone to unify all the skills I have learned at Simpson and allow me to develop into a successful well-rounded student and career professional.

This paragraph explores five possible ways that Costa Rica fits into the course of study. While each stay on topic, five is a lot of topics, and not all of them are treated with care. In the end, topics 2-4 could be deleted to add depth to topic 5. Topic 5 is discipline-specific, and readers are intrigued by this research problem. [numbers added]

The writer has extremely strong organization skills. This paragraph has a tight topic and two main points. However, there's no life in this: Don't these benefits apply to everyone? Take communication: as readers, we want to know if this person has struggled or if their future career requires communication to solve difficult problems.

Overall, this paper is well-organized but unspecific. If you replace the student's major and location of the study abroad, you could swap it for any other application essay. So, the structure of this essay is strong, but what is needed is *personality*: what personal stories illustrate how this location connects to this person's vision of their life? Or, how do their past experiences make them a good fit? Or, what is something they are really interested in about the culture? The closest we get is the line in turquoise. THAT is an interest worth learning about more. Why does the writer care about that? **Remember that your audience wants to know about YOU.**