International Study Options for Honors Students: Some Preliminary Guidelines and Suggestions

1. Two terms before you’re interested in going overseas, explore your options via the Center for International Education(CIE):
   a. what programs are out there,
   b. how they apply to your interests, majors, and minors, and
   c. what courses you may want to take in the country of your choosing.

2. Be sure to attend any required informational meetings that the CIE hosts.

3. Fill out the proper paperwork by the posted CIE deadline.

4. Meet with an Honors Program staff member, providing the information that he or she requests to better understand your study abroad objectives. During this meeting, we will preliminarily determine what kinds of Honors credit you can request for your international education experience.

5. Or meet with an Honors Program staff member early on, before you decide to pursue any international education opportunities. We can help you identify the academic path that may most closely align with your international education experience.

6. Be sure to pick up a Honors International Education Proposal form two months prior to departure to request Honors credit.
Questions that you should think about prior to your appointment with an Honors Program Staff Member:

1. What country will you be choosing for your study abroad experience?

2. What program have you decided upon? Describe the nature of your proposed study abroad experience (i.e., classes that you’ll be taking, the timeline for your stay, and what curricular activities you intend to do while you’re in this particular country).

3. What do you intend to glean, accomplish, and/or get out of your international education experience? Describe your reasons for going, your goals, and your motivations for studying abroad.

4. If you are taking classes at a host institution, which of these courses, in your own mind, would constitute an “honors” experience, and why? Courses that convey an “honors” experience should ideally allow the students to explore a topic in depth and breadth; such courses might also be taught in a foreign language and involve the students in some significant cultural exploration relevant to the host country itself.

5. Describe the specific non-curricular activities and/or independently-arranged work – fieldwork, internships, service learning, volunteer work, fieldtrips, traveling, interviewing, independent research, independent study, guided reading, and/or thesis work – that you plan to engage in, while you are in the host country.

6. Will you be working with a faculty member at NAU? If so, whom? What kind of contact will you be maintaining with this individual, while you are at the host institution? Will this individual be a part of the program abroad, or will this person reside at NAU while you are abroad? What has this faculty member asked or required of you, for your study abroad experience?

The Formal Process of Securing Honors Credit for a Study Abroad Experience:

1. Make an appointment to talk to an Honors Staff member.
2. Consider these questions above, prior to your appointment.
3. Bring with you whatever paperwork that you’ve completed for the CIE.
5. While meeting with you, the Honors Program will determine the number of Honors credits you could earn (from 1 to 6 units). If necessary, we will
   a. discuss options for HON 490, 485, 497, and 487 (i.e., independently-arranged coursework),
   b. use course numbers with the HON prefix, and/or
   c. use currently approved NAU courses and affix an H to the subject number.
6. Last, discuss with the Honors staff member the writing expectations that the Program will have of you, while you are studying abroad. All students earning Honors credit will be expected to complete a pre-trip writing assignment, a post-trip writing assignment, and some kind of writing (i.e., a journal) during the study abroad experience itself in order to encapsulate the experience and to have students reflect upon the experiences from an “Honors” perspective. These prompts will be available to you when you have been accepted for study abroad, have an Honors International Education Proposal approved by Honors Director and will be due prior to having HON or –H experiences added to your transcript.