

EAP Statement of Purpose

Your statement of purpose is one of the most important elements of the EAP application. Please read these instructions carefully.

Audience: During the application process, your statement may be read by numerous entities including UC and or host institution faculty and staff. Your statement should be sensitive to the host culture and contain well-researched, accurate information relating to the host country.

Format: Your statement of purpose is to be written in standard essay format with your **name, country of interest, student ID number, and page number on each page**. The essay must be **2-3 pages in length**, (minimum of 2 pages, maximum of 3 pages) **typed and double-spaced**.

Content: Please use the following guidelines to aid you in writing one cohesive essay describing your educational and personal EAP goals. Remember that your personal statement is an opportunity to tell us why you selected a specific EAP program and what sets you apart from other applicants.

Competitive Essays will address the following:

- ◆ How does your proposed EAP program complement your studies at UC (e.g., credit for your major, minor, general education (GE), electives, and/or academic work outside your major field of study)?
- ◆ Should you have any academic anomalies on your transcript (grades of D or F, Incompletes, Withdrawals), please explain.
- ◆ What interests you culturally, socially and/or politically about your host country?
- ◆ What is your level of proficiency in the language of the host country in each of the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening comprehension? In what areas do you seek improvement? (**Not applicable for programs where English is the language of instruction**)
- ◆ What are you currently doing to prepare for EAP?
- ◆ What interests or life experiences have influenced your choice of EAP program/country? (e.g., Have you ever visited your host country?)
- ◆ Has any extra-curricular involvement prepared you for study abroad?
- ◆ What are your greatest worries about studying abroad and how do you hope to overcome them?
- ◆ What skills do you hope to develop on EAP and how might these influence your future career/graduate school objectives?

Tips For Writing the Perfect EAP Statement of Purpose

1. Read all of the instructions given to you regarding the content of your essay.

Remember to include your name, student ID number, country, and page number on each page of your essay. Also, please realize that your essay will be read by people in the host country (this is, the country in which you intend to study). Therefore, be sensitive to the culture and politics of the host country.

2. Pay attention to the following stylistic rules:

- a. Do Not use contractions (don't, won't, didn't, it's, I'm, etc.)
- b. Check to see that you are using they, them, and their correctly.
- c. Do Not use run-on sentences or sentence fragments.
- d. Terms like U.S. are acceptable as adjectives (e.g. "U.S. policy") but not as nouns.
- e. Do Not capitalize words like literature, culture, biology, history, political science etc., unless you are referring to specific courses (Biology 5) or departments (the Biology Department).

3. Organization

A well written essay is one that is organized in a series of paragraphs. Remember to use transitional sentences between paragraphs.

4. Clarity

A well written essay is easy to understand, even though the ideas presented may require deep thought on the part of the reader. Therefore, always try to be clear and concise. Avoid taking something that is simple and trying to make it sound complex. Pay attention to sentence structure and to the meaning of words.

5. Read your paper out loud to yourself.

This helps identify awkward passages, incorrect grammar, run-on sentences, and sentence fragments. Your ears will hear what your eyes do not catch!

6. Check for Punctuation and Grammatical Errors!

This process cannot be emphasized enough. You are a member of a prestigious university and any errors in your statement of purpose are the result of careless behavior.

7. When in doubt, ask for help!

We are here to brainstorm or answer questions regarding your statement. We also highly recommend a visit to an English tutor at the Learning Center. Having a second set of eyes look over your work will determine if your writing has its intended effect.

The UCR Learning Center
Tutorial Walk-Ins: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
Bring a draft of your Statement of Purpose

Students who follow these guidelines have a better chance of being accepted into an Education Abroad Program!