



Middlebury Schools Abroad Evaluation: 2007-2008

Evaluating your period of study abroad is one of the most valuable services you can render Middlebury College and future students planning to study abroad, and it is one of the most important ways you can help us maintain the highest possible standards. For this reason, until this form is submitted to International Programs and Off Campus Study a hold will be placed on official Middlebury transcript requests for Middlebury College students who studied at Middlebury Schools Abroad (this does not apply to non-Middlebury students). Please note: If you studied abroad for two semesters on two different programs, you must submit two separate evaluations.

The staff of the Middlebury Schools Abroad/International Programs and Off Campus Study welcomes the opportunity to hear about your experiences abroad; please feel free to stop by or call and talk with us!

This document contains respondents between 1 and 1 inclusive.

1. Home Institution

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

2. Your academic program

Major

International Studies

Month & Year of (expected) graduation

May 2009

3. What was the period of your study abroad?

fall semester

spring semester

academic year

spring semester followed by fall semester

4. Given that educational systems abroad differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on your learning, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment?

The academic approach in Mainz is VERY different. Studying in Mainz made me appreciate the quality, dedication and commitment of professors at Middlebury. Once I accepted that the professors didn't really care about furthering my intellectual interest or encouraging me to pursue a subject to a high level, I was able to self-start and accept the system for what it was. Being able to function in an academic environment in which, in my opinion, the professors have very little respect for the intellectual capabilities of their students, very much gave me self-confidence.

5. AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Please Comment:

In comparison to China, for example, German culture is not that different than American culture, but it's the little things, such as punctuality or speaking to people on the bus, that set it apart.

7. In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

Study abroad helped develop my self-confidence. My outgoing personality was helpful in meeting people.

8. How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

Since the beginning of college, I've wanted to develop another foreign language skill, and study abroad provided the opportunity to become fluent in my target language.

9. What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
 - Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
 - Apartment
 - Other (please describe)
-

10. Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

11. Please comment on your response to the question above.

I was the only American in a dorm of mostly German students, and as a result, I made mostly German friends and only spoke the language.

12. Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

13. If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

I made a few friends through my classes, but mostly from living in a dorm. My mainstream classes mostly helped me to understand the academic attitude.

14. Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

15. What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

- | No improvement | Little improvement | Improved somewhat | Improved | Very much improved |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |

16. What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

- | No improvement | Little improvement | Improved somewhat | Improved | Very much improved |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

17. What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

- | No improvement | Little improvement | Improved somewhat | Improved | Very much improved |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |

18. What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved



19. Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

It was what I expected. I absolutely would encourage students to spend the majority of time with people from the host country. I think I learned so much German b/c there were no Middlebury undergrads in my program.

20. Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

Yes

No

Please explain:

.....

21. Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

Yes

No

Please explain:

The library is organised very poorly, and professors can be very lazy by scheduling an hour long presentation by a student for every class meeting. The key is reading the course description and making sure you're not in one like that.

22. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #1

International Relations : seminar

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg Universitaet

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

weekly papers, one very large final paper, a final exam, extensive readings and an hour - long presentation

Please describe the course content:

in-depth exploration of theories of International Relations and their application to current political issues

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

The professor would lecture, there would be a presentation and then a discussion of the readings

Other comments about this course:

.....

23. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

24. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

25. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

European Colonialism in the 19th Century: seminar

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg Universitaet

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

One presentation, a Hausarbeit (extensive final paper) and an oral exam

Describe course content

examination of primary and secondary sources relating to the title

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

" "

Other comments about this course:

.....

26. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

27. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

28. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

Conservatism in the Weimar Republic

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg Universitaet

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

An Oral Exam, a presentation, and a Hausarbeit

Describe course content

Presentation and analysis of different conservative groups during the Weimar Republic

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Primary and secondary source readings: the professor read from her lecture notes.

Other comments about this course:

.....

29. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

30. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

31. Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

32. Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

Poor

Good

Excellent

33. Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

Not helpful

Somewhat helpful

Very helpful

34. Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

Yes

No

35. Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

Yes

No

Please explain:

.....

36. What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

I would tell them to make certain to spend a significant amount of time with people whose native language is their target one. I would also travel a LOT.

37. MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you attend Middlebury's on-campus pre-departure orientation meeting(s)?

Yes

No

38. MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you find the pre-departure meetings and handouts useful?

Yes

No

N/A - Did not attend meetings

39. ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?

I found it all very useful.