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| Your Name: Email:    When will you do your practicum (approx. dates):  Has your participation in this study abroad program been confirmed? If not, when will it be?    Summary (In less than 40 words: What do you propose to do?): |
| Practicum advisor: Rachel Osgood (rmosgood@mines.edu)  Subject consultant:  ***Subject consultants*** *(LAIS or McBride faculty) provide intellectual depth by identifying readings, topics, concepts, and issues for students to consider as they pursue their practicum projects. They also approve the bibliographies. The* ***practicum advisor*** *typically serves as the instructor of record who grades the students’ work and monitors completion.* |

**HNRS 405: Practicum** is an independent, experiential learning program that seeks to develop student skills and broaden their understanding of the socio-cultural context in which scientists and engineers work. Students are expected to complete work (including academic exercises, laboratory research, internships, and/or experiential investigations) that is comparable to a three-credit Honors course.

The **Foreign Area Study Pathway** focuses on developing the student’s knowledge of the culture and politics of a foreign country through readings, reflection, and cultural immersion. This pathway and the Public Affairs Research pathway are especially well suited for those students studying, researching, or interning abroad in technical fields, as they can be completed independently and simultaneously with this other work. Students will meet most of their credit requirements through the independent work and experiential investigations articulated here.

**Submit this agreement** via an email to Rachel Osgood (rmosgood@mines.edu).

This **Practicum Agreement** establishes the requirements for completing HNRS 405. Students should develop this agreement *in concert with the McBride practicum advisor*, who will approve the pertinent deadlines and activities and submit the final grade. Students will work with a subject consultant, a faculty member (typically from LAIS or McBride) with pertinent area expertise. Failure to meet deadlines or complete all the identified tasks will negatively affect the student’s grade. Submission of this agreement constitutes an agreement and signals your agreement to its terms.

**TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES:**

In the right-hand column, enter the date by which you will complete each task. You are now expected to meet these deadlines. (Enter “complete” where applicable.) **As you meet each deadline, notify Rachel Osgood, who will track your timely completion.**

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| **BEFORE PRACTICUM** | |  |
| **Task** | **Target Date** | **DEADLINE**  (mm/dd/yyyy) |
| Submit this Practicum Agreement, including sponsoring organization information and preliminary bibliography\* (pages 6-7) | Semester prior to departure |  |
| Apply for Honors Enrichment Scholarship, if applicable | Consult McBride website |  |
| Apply for program(s); request recommendations, if applicable | Requirements set by sponsoring organization |  |
| Office of International Programs paperwork and approval\* | Consult OIP |  |
| Register for **HNRS 405: Practicum** for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ semester | CSM Registration period |  |
| Set up “field” blog and write first post\* | One week prior to departure |  |
| Submit final annotated bibliography and background report\* | One week prior to departure |  |
| **DURING PRACTICUM** | |  |
| **Task** | **Target Date** | **DEADLINE** |
| Online “field” blog and cultural proofs\* | Posting frequency: every \_\_\_\_ days. |  |
| **AFTER PRACTICUM** | |  |
| **Task** | **Target Date** | **DEADLINE** |
| Provide list of “cultural proofs” completed on your blog to your practicum advisor | Two weeks after return |  |
| Submit analytical essay\* | Two weeks after return |  |
| Exit interview or presentation | Coordinate with McBride Director | TBA |

**\* See additional instructions below.**

**ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

Paperwork:

* *Work with the Office of International Programs (OIP) to complete the required paperwork, immunizations, health insurance verification, ISIC card, etc. For additional information, see:* [*http://oip.mines.edu/Individual-International-Travel*](http://oip.mines.edu/Individual-International-Travel)

Bibliography and Background Report:

* In concert with your subject consultant and/or practicum advisor, select ~300 pages of readings pertaining to the culture, history, language, business, media, science and technology, and/or other aspects of the country to which you are traveling. These readings may include a combination of books and/or journal articles.
* Submit a **preliminary** bibliography of your proposed readings for your background report with this agreement (see page 7).
* Write a report (~1000-1500 words, double-spaced) examining a topic arising from these readings. Attach to that report your final annotated bibliography (~150-200 word description of each reading, and number of pages read). Use APA style.
* Submit your background report and final annotated bibliography at least one week prior to your departure.

Online “Field” Blog and Cultural Proofs:

Your goal in living and traveling abroad is to learn *from* and *about* the culture you are experiencing; that is, to do more than merely a tourist who skims the surface. By engaging the community thoughtfully, and by documenting your experiences appropriately, you create a record that stands as proof of cultural immersion. **You will do so through the following activities, written for an online audience.**

* Your online “field journal,” written as an online blog, will record your experiences, reactions, questions, and insights while in a different cultural setting. Entries will often outline and summarize daily events but should also contain a strong element of analysis and personal reflection.
* Your “field” blog should also include at least **eight** of the cultural “proofs,” as listed in the table on page 5.
* First “predeparture” blog: At least one week prior to your departure, set up your blog and write an entry that explores what you think you will learn, encounter, and/or discover while you are abroad.
* *Format:* Each entry should clearly have the date and location. You will want to include photographs, maps, and other visuals.
  + *Blog hosting:* You can post your blogthrough an online site, such as wordpress.org or blogger.com.
* *Expectations:* As a rough guide, you should have *at least* 15 entries (including the proofs) over the course of your cultural experience. Because you are receiving academic credit for your entries, and because they will be read online by others (including friends and family!), they should adhere to high standards. In other words, you should do more than merely carry out minimum requirements; your blog should be thoughtful and thorough while reflecting the deepest possible level of engagement.

Analytical Essay:

* Drawing from both your experience abroad and supplemental research, write a final analytical essay (~1500 words) that explores one of the following:
  + Identify one gap in your understanding (as based on your background readings and report) that was enhanced, changed, or made more complex by your experience abroad.
  + Identify a social, cultural, political, or economic reality that really took you by surprise. Research in greater depth. Explain how that research affected your initial reaction.
  + Take one of the experiences you completed for a cultural proof. Research it in greater depth. Explain how your understanding has changed as a result of your research.
  + What could Americans learn from this country? Identify an idea or practice that you think Americans would be well-served by understanding better. Research it in greater depth and articulate its value.
  + Identify 3-4 American cultural products (e/g. films, images, advertisements, foods, music) that reflect how many Americans are exposed to this country. To what extent do these products accurately represent the country? Augment your analysis with additional research.
* Use APA to cite all sources. Submit no later than two weeks after your return.

**CULTURAL PROOFS:**

Required Proof:

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| Read a work of literature (book or collection of poems/stories) recommended to you by someone who grew up in that country. Or, read 7-10 children’s books recommended to you by someone who grew up in that country, if possible in the native language. Discuss the impact or cultural meaning of the works with the person who recommended them to you. For your written proof, explain how this literature affects your understanding of the culture, politics, or history of the country. |

Suggested Proofs:

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| Learn to cook a traditional meal (3-4 dishes) from start to finish – from procuring the ingredients to serving the food. Later prepare one of the dishes and give it as a gift to the person who taught you to cook it.  Make a language log of ~30 local, commonly-used expressions or phrases such as metaphors, idioms, analogies, proverbs, and clichés. This proof is best accomplished over a long period of time and is NOT a vocabulary list! Make 1-2 insights in a short paragraph about each expression or phrase.  Interview 3-4 elderly people of the community on what life was like when they were growing up (represent each gender).  Identify 10 species of local plants used in cooking or for medicinal or ceremonial purposes and perform the following: 1) press, photograph, or color copy a picture of the plants; 2) identify them by name; 3) give a one-paragraph explanation and description of each plant’s value and significance.  Map an entire village/community. Or, if you are in large city or metropolis, map an entire neighborhood. Label key structures, as well as prominent households. This is more of a social activity than a technical mapping activity. Include in your analysis who helped you, questions you asked, and insights gained from the mapping exercise.  Identify 10 symbols in the culture. Describe the symbol and write a sentence or two about its meaning and significance. Symbols may range from an actual object in the culture to the significance of facial expressions or the meaning of wearing one’s hair down, etc.  Watch the local television news for at least a half hour every evening, or read the local newspaper every day, over the course of at least two weeks. Discuss the most striking events with at least 3 locals.  Watch a film produced in this country *and* an American film shown to local audience. Compare the experiences and audience reactions.  Attend a religious ceremony or visit a religious site that is different from your own religious tradition. Observe similarities and differences from your own religious background. | Working with the CSM Alumni Association, arrange to interview a CSM alum about his/her experience working in the country. *Be sure to discuss specific criteria for your blog entry with CSMAA before posting anything online!*  Learn and practice a traditional craft, then share and/or teach the craft.  Play a sport with locals.  Learn a traditional song from a person in the local culture, write down the words, and translate. Do not get this out of a book or from the Internet – learn it from a local! Your summary and analysis should include brief background of the person, the experience of learning the song, and explanation and insight into the song.  Volunteer to work in someone’s garden or farm or local business.  Go to the market and bargain for a variety of fruit or vegetable that you’ve never seen or sampled before. Then eat your findings. In your analysis, discuss everything from the bargaining to the significance of the fruit in the culture to how it tasted.  Attend a traditional dance event and discover the meaning of the dance, music, or narrative being told by the dance.  Attend a theatrical production and discover the meaning of the story being told and how it is being presented on stage.  Go through a museum. Ask at least three people, native to the culture, for explanations of what is displayed.  Try at least 8 different foods native to the culture. Include a few that initially sound unappealing to you. Write down the names and describe the ingredients (as best you can). Or, go to a feast hosted by a native of the culture. Write down the names of all of the food. Try to sample everything and report which items were your favorite. |

**Sponsoring Organization**

**Provide all the information below:**

Name of Sponsoring Organization:

Brief Description of organization or institution:

Name of Point of Contact at Organization (if applicable):

Contact Title:

Contact Telephone:

Contact Email:

Organization website:

**PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Using APA style, list below the preliminary bibliography for your research project:

**[Insert bibliography here!]**