

Policies Regarding ESD Student Participation in Semester-Away Programs During the 2017-18 School Year

The Episcopal School of Dallas encourages young men and women to grow through experiences both inside and outside our school community. We support student involvement in semester-away programs that are in alignment with the mission of our school.

Approval for semester-away programs is required and will be granted based on the quality of the program and readiness of the individual student. Applications must be received by the Director of Global Education by March 1 of the academic year preceding the semester-away experience.

ESD will evaluate applications using the following criteria: quality of the program; consistency of the program with ESD's mission; curricular alignment between the program and ESD; the academic standing of the applicant; the applicant's demonstrated characteristics of honor, respect, and integrity; and the applicant's interview with the Head of Upper School.

ESD has a long-standing relationship with Swiss Semester, New York CityTerm, The School for Ethics and Global Leadership, and the High Mountain Institute. These programs limit the number of ESD students admitted each semester, and have been determined to be acceptable to ESD. Other applicant-suggested programs will be compared to these four programs for quality and alignment.

Applicants should consider the financial implications of a semester away. ESD will reduce annual tuition for students who spend a semester away in an approved program by 30% with the limitation that no more than eight students may receive such discounts in any school year on a first-come, first-served basis. Students in excess of the first eight will not receive tuition discounts but may attend programs that are approved in accordance with the above criteria. Certain fees, e.g. lunch, will be adjusted pro-rata for time away from school; however, annual fees, for example senior fees, will be fully assessed.

Highlights:

- ESD will limit the number of tuition-discounted students enrolled in semester-away programs to a maximum of eight students per school year; priority placement will be given to students seeking to attend Swiss Semester, CityTerm, The School for Ethics and Global Leadership, and High Mountain Institute.
- ESD financial assistance does not follow ESD students to semester-away programs.
- Programs not listed above require advance approval, which shall be in the discretion of the Head of the Upper School based on the quality of the program, the curricular alignment with ESD, and the consistency of the program with ESD's mission. Attendance in non-approved programs could negatively impact the student's progress toward graduation.
- Regardless of the program selected, applicants should meet with the Head of Upper School early in the process to understand any adjustments they may need to make to their schedules and course selection to stay on track for ESD graduation.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Donna Hull or Erica Abbett.

Application to Spend a Semester Away from ESD

STUDENT NAME: _____

Semester Away Program: _____

Semester Away (please circle): Fall or Spring of the year _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____