

GESI Online Application Instructions for Non-Northwestern Students

Pre-Application Checklist:

Before starting the online application process, read through the following checklist so that you have all required materials prepared:

- Passport information** - If you do not yet have a passport, you can enter information later.
- Unofficial transcript saved as a PDF** - This is often found in your College or University's online student portal.
- Resume** – One page; this will be shared with GESI site teams and internship hosts.
- Study Abroad General Essays** – Topics can be found [here](#) and in the online application.
- GESI Essay** - Prepare the following essay in a word document so you can easily copy and paste to the application.
 - *Building on the progress made through the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) were introduced in early 2016 as a "universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and enjoy peace and prosperity." In 300-500 words, describe which SDG resonates with you the most and why, and describe a few steps you think could help achieve that goal. **If Bolivia, Costa Rica, or Guatemala is your first choice GESI location, complete the response in Spanish.***
- Preliminary Course Plan** – Know your GESI course names, as you'll be required to enter them (copy below), as well as how you intend to count them (i.e. major or elective credit):
 - *COMM 395 SA Doing Development: The Theory and Practice of Community Consulting*
 - *INTL 293 SA: Development in the Global Context*
- Home Institution Authorization Form** - Non-Northwestern students are required to submit a Home Institution Authorization and Evaluation Form. Please download this form [here](#) and submit to the appropriate administrator at your home university. *Please note you can submit your application without completion of this form, but you cannot be officially accepted and enrolled in GESI without the form.*
- GPA** – If your GPA is below 2.5, you are required to submit an additional essay, and provide a letter of recommendation from a [professor or teaching assistant](#). Guidelines for the letter of recommendation can be found [here](#). The essay prompt is in the application and below:
 - In an essay of 300-500 words, please briefly explain why your GPA fell below a 2.5, and give a detailed plan for how you will raise your GPA. The essay should demonstrate the following:
 - Your GPA is stable or improving,
 - You have a detailed plan for improving your academic performance,
 - You have strong academic and personal interests in this study abroad location and/or

courses, which are apparent in your course choices at Northwestern, extracurricular activities, application essays, etc.

- You have a compelling academic rationale for studying abroad this summer/fall.

Your GESI Application:

1. Go to www.northwestern.edu/studyabroadapp. Click on the "Non-Northwestern Students: Register Now" button.

2. Create a profile. If you have applied for a Study Abroad program before, be sure to update your profile before you begin.

3. Find your first choice GESI location and click "Select" and indicate the term you intend to participate in order to begin your application.

***The application will ask you to list a first and second choice program. If GESI is your only program choice, **DO NOT** select a second GESI location as your second choice program (this will trigger duplicate fields); there is space in the application to rank your preferred location(s). *Your application does not lock you into one GESI country. Should you decide you are interested in another site, the GESI staff can update your application to reflect your updated preferences.*

4. Students applying to GESI **must conduct a phone/virtual interview with GESI staff prior to submitting their application.** These interview sessions are an opportunity to articulate how your program choice aligns with your personal and academic interests, learn more about the program, and ask questions. Schedule an interview through our [online scheduling system](#).

5. Make sure you have completed all sections of the application. If you have completed all required questions in a section, you will see a **green check mark** next to that section. If you do not see this green check, return to that section and complete the required questions.

6. Review your application on the **Review & Save** page, then click the Submit Application button at the bottom of the page. If the option to submit your application does not appear, that indicates that some part of the application is not yet complete.

Please be aware that once you submit your application, it will be sent to a GESI adviser for review. You will not be able to edit your application after clicking "Submit Application" unless instructed to do so by a GESI adviser.

Questions?

We're here to help! Contact GESI at gesi@northwestern.edu or give us a call at 847.467.2689. For technical issues with the online application, please email studyabroadapp@northwestern.edu.

We look forward to reviewing your application!