

## Cover Letter

**Pamela Smith, University of Pittsburgh Undergraduate Student**

Department of English  
Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences  
Panther Hall Rm. XXX  
University of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
[prs97@pitt.edu](mailto:prs97@pitt.edu)

**Term:** Requested funds will be used between May 2022 and June 2022.

**Abstract:** This project requests funding to add additional courses for Writing and Fine Arts students to the Pitt in Dublin study abroad program. Students enrolled in the program will engage with local writers and poets, as well as visual artists in various mediums, in culturally relevant and community-oriented ways. The University provides very few study abroad options in these fields. This program will increase engagement of humanities students in the University community and provide further instructional and professional opportunities. This study abroad program will use allocated funds to compensate an additional program instructor to teach two new courses in Dublin, one on the intersection of writing and visual communication, and one focusing on the study of local art and artisan craft. If this term's program proves successful, the program should develop into a yearly study abroad option in the future.

**Goals:** The University prides itself on fostering a global and culturally conscious community of learners. In order to maintain this community, the University should develop and offer a wider range of learning opportunities for a wider range of student interests. Currently, the program focuses on literature, communications, and marketing. While these are important fields to explore in an international context, the addition of a writing and visual arts focused course of study would improve the already popular study abroad program. Students will also obtain an

enhanced global education in fields where study abroad options are currently limited. This project will further the goals of both the University, and the students who enroll in it.

**Project Statement:** This project will expand opportunities for Writing and Fine Arts students at the University. These courses will also expand their cultural knowledge and engagement. I propose two additional courses: ENGCOMP XXXX Writing in a Global Context, and SA XXXX Visual Cultural Awareness. Both of these courses apply to the local culture of study, in this case Dublin. I request \$11,000 in funds to cover the costs of an additional instructor for the 6-week course period. Funds will also apply to instructional materials. These include copies of local texts, fees for out-of-the-classroom workshops, darkroom materials, and traditional art supplies. Students will cover their own travel and lodging costs, in accordance with how the existing programs currently operate. Students will also cover the costs of any additional texts or supplies. Photography students will supply their own camera or sign a waiver for a University-supplied camera. Food and housing will be supplied through a local university, arranged by the University.

**ENGCOMP XXXX Communicating in a Global Context** teaches students how to write for international audiences. This course will also focus on selected local texts. Students will analyze how these texts address their local audience. They will also analyze the context in which these texts were written. Students will apply these ideas to their own writing. Assignments will also consider elements of design. Students will be cross-enrolled in SA XXXX. Students will apply work from SA XXXX to written projects in ENGCOMP XXXX.

**SA XXXX Visual Cultural Awareness** teaches students how to produce visual art in international contexts. This course will also focus on selected local artists and art pieces. Students will analyze how local art addresses local audiences. Students will be exposed to

traditional local craft and artisan work as well. They will also analyze the context in which pieces were created, applying these ideas to their own art through illustration, photography, or textile mediums.

**Table 1: Budget of Additional Study Abroad Program**

Budget	Expense	Explanation
10000	Instructor	Instructor food, lodging, compensation
70	Paint	Art supply
400	Print copies of “Local Textbook”	Instructional material to be dispersed to students
300	Darkroom	Supplies for film photography
230	Fees	Local workshop fees

**Conclusion:** Adding writing and visual art courses to the Pitt in Dublin study abroad program will provide a wider range of students the opportunity to study abroad, engage in a different culture, and build new skills. The University values a globally aware student community; expanded study abroad options will help the University reach this goal.

## **Bibliography**

*Pitt in Dublin | Global Experiences.* (n.d.). Retrieved February 3, 2022, from

<https://www.abroad.pitt.edu/dublin>

**Words: 680**