

Final Summative Reflection

This final, summative reflection paper is expected to be a **maximum of eight pages** and written in an essay format. This means that you will need to carefully focus on what you include in your paper and why. Anything less than six pages will not allow you to fully address themes listed below. Focus especially on the meaning of the work that you have done, the cross-cultural nature of the experience, and what you have learned. Be sure to go beyond just describing the work itself (the “what”) and address the impact of the experience (the “so what”).

Please include: your name, major/minor, internship position, internship company/organization, and date at the top of page one. All of your written assignments are to be double spaced, in 11 point font, with standard one inch margins. Please be sure to carefully proofread your writing and include examples to support your statements, using the grading rubric provided as your guide. **Themes to be addressed:**

Goals and objectives: As an introduction, describe your primary learning objectives as outlined in your pre-departure paper and explain how they may/may not have been redefined during the course of your internship. Looking back on the whole experience, discuss how you feel you met (or did not meet) your goals and objectives and why?

Academically: Discuss how you applied knowledge, ideas, concepts, and skills from both your academic coursework and life experiences to your internship. Address how you were able to communicate effectively across cultures, and in a language other than American English (even British English is different!). What did you learn outside of the internship placement itself that may also relate to your academics?

Culturally: Reflect on how this experience has impacted your understanding and appreciation of your host culture as well as your home culture. What did you learn about the values, beliefs, traditions, and perspectives of your host culture in general, and specifically as they related to your internship site? How might this cross-cultural experience influence how you account for diversity and cultural differences on a regular basis once you are home?

Personally: Thinking about the range of soft skills required in a professional setting (e.g. adaptability, independence, self confidence, critical thinking, problem solving, coping with ambiguous and unfamiliar situations), how do you feel your internship helped you hone some or all of these skills? During an interview, if a potential employer asked you to provide an example of a situation in which you utilized one or more of these skills, what might you talk about?

Professionally: Reflect on how your internship experience has shaped your perception of your field of study (major/minor) and prompted you to explore, examine and/or clarify your career goals. Discuss what have you learned about the nuances of working in a cross-cultural context, and how that might be applied to your future career.

Summing it up: What surprised you about your internship experience? What did you discover about your talents and interests? Now that you have had this international internship experience, how will you take what you have learned and use it to further your career?

If you have any questions about this final paper, please email Dr. Engel at jengel@cisabroad.com.