

Request for Religious Accommodation in a Study Abroad Program

Goucher College is committed to supporting equality of opportunity for all students by affirming the inclusiveness of our community. This commitment includes embracing religious diversity. As part of this commitment, the college will make good faith efforts to provide a reasonable accommodation of a student's sincerely held religious belief.

A religious belief includes traditional, organized religions but also sincerely held religious beliefs, including those that are new, uncommon, and/or not part of a formal church or sect. All aspects of religious belief and observance that are sincerely held will be considered subject to this policy.

A reasonable religious accommodation (which may include an exemption from Goucher's study abroad requirement) is a change in the academic, housing or travel requirements of the college's study abroad program in a way that is necessary for the student to participate in his/her religious practice or belief without causing undue hardship to the college. Undue hardship may include accommodations that are unduly expensive or disruptive, or that would fundamentally alter academic requirements, or the nature or operation of the college's business.

To make a request for a religious accommodation in a Study Abroad Program, you must:

- Notify the Office of International Studies of your desire for a religious accommodation;
- Complete this form and return it to the Office of International Studies;
- Provide a letter from a spiritual advisor supporting your request

The Office of International Studies, together with you and your advisor, will review your request and consider what reasonable religious accommodations may be possible. Appeals of the decision can be made to the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies, whose decision shall be final. The grounds for such appeal will be that the procedures described in this policy were not followed, and the failure to follow procedure may have affected the outcome of the final decision; or that substantive new information that was not reasonably available at the time of the decision has now become available and may change the outcome of the final decision.

To be Completed by Student

Name: _____

Date of request: _____

Name of advisor: _____

What specific accommodation do you request? (For example, ability to wear religious attire, changes in housing and dining arrangements, etc.)

Identify your religious practice or belief and state how the requested accommodation is necessary to enable you to participate in your religious practice or belief without impacting your ability to meet the academic requirements of Goucher's curriculum, or causing undue hardship to the College.

Are there other accommodation options that might address your needs?

My religious beliefs and practices, which result in this request for a religious accommodation, are sincerely held. I understand that the accommodation requested above may not be granted, but that Goucher College will attempt to provide a reasonable accommodation that does not create an undue hardship on the college or fundamentally alter the nature of Goucher's academic program.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

APPROVAL SECTION

_____ Approved _____ Denied

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____