

**Georgia Southern University
College of Education**

**International Study Opportunity
(ISO)**

Goals: The goals of the ISO program include the following:

1. To understand the interrelatedness of individuals, small groups, and society, locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.
2. To gain a broader perspective on diverse learners.

Description: The ISO Option includes three components:

1. An eleven-week traditional, accelerated student teaching experience during which time the student teacher must (a) complete a minimum of four-weeks of successful full-day teaching, (b) complete all program-specific student teacher requirements, (c) earn a satisfactory performance in the accelerated student teaching experience.
2. A four-week international student teaching experience during which time the student teacher must complete a set of ISO competency activities at a satisfactory level.
3. Presentations of the experience are made to university faculty, school faculty, peers and community.

The official final grade recommendation for the combined components of the ISO Option (“unsatisfactory” or “satisfactory”) will be determined by the student teachers’ level of attainment of the criteria set for the three components of the experience described above.

Application Process: The application packet for the ISO Option must be submitted by the deadline for student teaching applications. The packet must include the following materials:

1. The completed ISO Application form
2. An essay (maximum of 2 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font) explaining your professional expectations for the international study opportunity and reasons why you are interested in participating in study abroad.
3. Letter of recommendations from two of your previous or current College of Education instructors (one from a methods instructor, one from a university field experience supervisor). Letters must include their position and signature.
4. Proof of health insurance
5. Participant agreement form
6. Medical information form

Submit completed application packets on or before the deadline, to Undergraduate Teacher Education Office, Room 1103. The ISO Selection Committee will review all application packets. Notification of selection status will take place by e-mail.

Selection Criteria: The following criteria will be used to evaluate your application packet:

1. B or better in upper division education coursework
2. Inclusion of all required materials
3. Evidence of the following characteristics: initiative; flexibility in adapting to new situations; open-minded to beliefs, experiences and practices that may differ from your own; knowledge of content; teaching capabilities; and professionalism.

Selection Process: A committee comprised of representatives from the COE faculty and administration will review application packets. Applicants will participate in a roundtable interview discussion.

ISO Option Requirement: The following requirement must be fulfilled in the ISO Option:

1. Attend two ISO Information and Orientation seminars
2. Demonstrate satisfactory performance during accelerated student teaching experience.
3. Communicate with the Georgia Southern University supervisor through e-mail and/or WebCT while abroad (contact supervisor upon arrival; complete required number of contacts as required by the university supervisor).
4. Complete a portfolio demonstrating a satisfactory performance on a variety of activities during the four-week international student teaching experience (5 day per week experience with the exception of one long weekend for extended travel). The activities may include:
 - a. Assist classroom teacher (e.g., centers, small groups, one-on-one interaction).
 - b. Teach lessons (e.g., large groups, small groups).
 - c. Conduct daily routines/procedures.
 - d. Attend and participate in planning meetings/grade level meetings.
 - e. Observe and assist at recess.
 - f. Visit and observe different grade level classrooms.
 - g. Visit administration.
 - h. Share information on home country with different grade levels (e.g., teach unit to class, questions and answer session).
 - i. Others as specified.
5. Present international experiences to university faculty, school faculty, peers, and the community.

ISO Option Cost: In addition to your tuition, which you will pay directly to Georgia Southern University, you should consider the following cost:

1. Airfare. You will arrange and pay for air transportation arriving and departing on the designated dates. For safety purposes you should coordinate flights with others participating in the ISO program.
2. Accommodations. Money will need to be budgeted to cover room and board expenses.
3. Spending. Allow for sufficient pocket money to cover weekend travel, unanticipated expenses, meals, souvenirs, phone calls, airport departure tax, etc.
4. Alternate travel. We recommend that you purchase a BritRail pass if you plan to travel on weekends.

Note: Any financial aid you are receiving will also apply to you ISO experience.

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Application

Please provide the following information and return your completed application packet to the Office of Undergraduate Teacher Education, Room 1103, College of Education Building.

Student Name _____

Certification Area _____

Eagle ID _____ Country of Citizenship _____

Date of Birth _____ Gender: _____ Female _____ Male

Local Mailing Address _____

Permanent Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number Local: (_____) _____ - _____ and/or Cell: (_____) _____ - _____

Home: (_____) _____ - _____

Georgia Southern E-mail Address _____

1. Name of closest relative/parent/guardian _____

Relationship _____ Telephone # _____

Address of Above Person _____

2. Name of closest relative/parent/guardian _____

Relationship _____ Telephone # _____

Address of Above Person _____

REMINDER: Your completed ISO application packet must include: (1) application form, (2) a 2-page written essay describing your professional expectations for the trip and reasons why you are interested in study abroad, (3) two letters of recommendation (one from a methods instructor and one from a university supervisor), (4) proof of health insurance, (5) participant's agreement form, and (6) medical information form.

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Medical Information

Name _____ Local Telephone _____

Address _____ Home Telephone _____

_____ E-mail _____

Participant's Physician _____ Telephone _____

Medical Insurance Provided _____ Telephone _____

Policy Number _____

Date of Last Physical Examination _____

Allergies, Particular Health Problems, and/or Medications _____

I, _____, plan to participate in Georgia Southern University College of Education's International Study Opportunities Program for 4 weeks as a part of my student teaching semester. Please sign below if you agree that my general health is adequate for the endeavor.

For Use by Physician

After reviewing the above information and knowing the individual, it is my opinion that no untoward risks would be incurred by his/her participation in this program as described above.

Signed _____, M.D. Date _____

Print Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ Fax _____

_____ E-mail _____

**Georgia Southern University
College of Education**

**International Study Opportunities
“Gain a Broader Perspective on Diverse Learners”**

Participant’s Agreement

Your acceptance into the College of Education’s International Study Opportunities (ISO) Program is based on the understanding that your primary purpose is to complete your student teaching experience through an international placement. While we certainly want you to enjoy this experience, we also urge you to keep your original priorities in mind. If you participate fully in your classroom, school-wide, university host and community experiences, and you actively seek out as many cultural activities as possible, you will derive maximum benefits from this program.

You will have a great deal of freedom as a participant in this program; however, there are some basic tenets that you will be required to follow in order to facilitate the smooth functioning of the program. Read and sign the agreement indicating that you agree to abide by the following conditions.

- I agree to arrive on the designated date and return on the designated date. I understand that alternative arrangements must be approved by the program director prior to my departure.
- I agree to attend class daily and fulfill all student teaching responsibilities in a professional manner.
- I agree to live in the accommodation arranged for the international experience.
- I agree to complete all assignments given by my Georgia Southern University Student Teaching Supervisor.
- I agree to have up-to-date and internationally valid health insurance during the program.
- I agree not to use any illegal drug while enrolled in the program.
- I agree not to consume alcohol to excess/illegally while enrolled in the program.
- I agree not to engage in behavior that would be detrimental to the Georgia Southern University COE International Study Opportunities Program while enrolled in the program.
- I agree to abide by the host university and/or school’s Student Code of conduct during the time it is hosting my international experience.
- I agree to abide by the Teacher Code of Conduct for the school(s) in which I am completing my student teaching.
- I agree not to hold the program director, the College of Education, Georgia Southern University, host university and/or school liable for accident, theft or sickness while enrolled in the program.
- I understand that I must be successful in an eleven-week traditional, accelerated student teaching experience during which time I must (1) complete a minimum of four-weeks of successful full-day teaching, (2) complete all program-specific student teaching requirements successfully, and (3) earn a satisfactory performance in the accelerated student teaching experience. Initial _____
- I understand that if I am placed on Probationary Status I will be unable to participate in the ISO program. Initial _____
- I agree not to hold the program director, the College of Education, or Georgia Southern University responsible for any monetary expenditure I make to participate in this program, even if I am unable to participate for any reason. Initial _____

Student Signature

Date