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**Do not take anything from this and present it as your own – if you do so**  
**your application will be disqualified.**

*This student received the Global Engagement Certification (Basic). She is a biology student who studied abroad in the Netherlands, Costa Rica, and Mexico.*

## **D. FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**

Basic Certification: Have you successfully completed (with grades of C or higher) at least two years of foreign language at the high school level or two semesters at the college level? Yes:  No:

With Distinction: Have you successfully completed (with grades of C or higher in each course) at least four semesters or the equivalent of the 2002 level of a foreign language at the college level, OR can you demonstrate foreign language fluency at the high intermediate level, or is English your second language? Yes:  No:

**Complete essay for either certification level in 250–500 words.**

Criteria for Either Certification	Describe at least two scenarios in your global learning experiences where you relied on your foreign language proficiency.
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I took two years of Latin in high school and also had two semesters of Latin here at KSU. Latin has been the only formal foreign language education I have had. I know one may wonder why someone would chose to learn a “dead” language; but Latin really is not “dead” per say. It is true no one speaks it anymore, but Latin still exists everywhere around us. I am a pre-med major, and Latin is everywhere in science, as can be seen in the classification of organisms for example. Latin has tremendously helped my vocabulary and the understanding of the English language itself.

I cannot completely answer this question in the way it is probably meant to be, since I have not had any other foreign language training, but I can describe two situations where foreign language proficiency would have come in handy. In Costa Rica, while some group members and I were doing the check-up clinic, Spanish proficiency would have come in handy a great deal. I did simple things such as taking weight and height to calculate body mass index. These tasks did not require much conversation, so I managed pretty well. I feel I could have done more if I could speak better Spanish. Another example I can relate is from Yucatan, Mexico. We worked closely with two Mayan biologists who helped us in identifying trees in the forests. At one point, I was in charge of marking a transect with the help of one

of the Mayan biologists. There was a little confusion and it was just the two of us; everyone else was off somewhere else in the forest. I found I could not communicate my question with him, and unfortunately a little time was wasted until another member of our team came around.

These trips were both very important and inspirational to my education and me personally. I had some of the best times on these trips, and I know that they would have been on a whole other level if I had some proficiency in Spanish. These two trips both inspired me to want to learn Spanish, especially since I plan on working in South and Central America in the future. (370 words)

## E. CROSS-CULTURAL TEAMWORK

**Complete essay for either certification level in 250-500 words.**

Criteria for Either Certification	Describe a substantive example of successful teamwork where you worked closely with individuals from different nations/cultures. Address your specific role on the team, difficulty you experienced, and/or compromises you made to adapt to cultural differences.
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My research team in Mexico consisted of six biology students from KSU, three biology professors from KSU, and two Mayan biologists from the Centro de Investigacion Cientifica in Merida, Yucatan. We were all there for the same reason- to collect data for our research on the ecology of the tropical dry forests. Us students, as well as the professors all contributed equally to the data collection. We did things such as setting transects, making plots, tagging trees, measuring trees, taking air and soil temperature, collecting leaves, and digging for mycorrhizal fungi on roots. During our data collection out in the forests, we relied on the two Mayan biologists to identify every tree in every plot we were sampling. However, they did not just name trees for us. They worked very hard right along with us. They would help us set our transects and mark off our plots too. Other than their language, they worked in the same manner as we did. We fortunately had one professor and a couple students who spoke good Spanish, so they were able to communicate very well. I wish I spoke the language because I had to have someone translate almost everything for me when we were having conversations. Of course this was frustrating and I also felt bad always having to ask someone for a translation. Also, as I mentioned before, it was a big problem when I was working alone with one of them and I could not communicate well enough to ask a certain question. However, most of the time when I was working alongside one of them, communication was not a problem; either they knew enough English or we both knew what it was that needed to be done that we could understand each other. Our data collection was very successful; we collected everything we needed too. It would not have been possible had we not had the two Mayan biologists with us. They knew every tree by genus and species by sight and were able to quickly walk through a plot and identify every tree. If anyone had difficulty, it was us having to keep up with them from not being able to write quickly enough! ( 370 words)

## F. CROSS-CULTURAL AWARENESS

Complete essay for either certification in 250-500 words

Criteria for Either Certification	Describe what you have learned about your own culture in relation to other cultures. Describe the differences and similarities that you have observed between your native culture and at least one other culture. Examples of such differences and similarities include but not limited to group dynamics, rituals, gender roles and work habits.
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One of the main things that have become apparent to me about our culture is that Americans are always in such a hurry. One of the biggest differences I noticed pertained to meal time. I would say more importance is placed upon meal time in other cultures than ours. It is a much more time-consuming event than it usually is to us. In Mexico it would be considered rude to eat in a hurry then leave the table directly after eating. In their culture, you sit and chat for a while before being served. While eating, they do not hurry; I noticed I always finished my food long before all the locals. Afterwards, it is customary to sit and talk at the table for a while longer. When visiting restaurants, you will not get your check right after you finish; it would take the waiter as long as thirty or more minutes before bringing the check to the table; this is also true for my experiences in Costa Rica and the Netherlands. After experiencing this a few times, I learned to allot more of my time to eating when I was out doing our excursions and touring the cities. At the end of my Mexico trip, we took the Mayan biologists out for a nice dinner. Our professors, who have done the trip before, told us that they appreciate gestures like this very much. We went to a nice restaurant next to the beach on our last day of work. All of us students really wanted to be able to go lay out on the beach and swim, but we had to wait until dinner was over. The dinner ended up taking about three hours! The students, including myself, were upset that we had lost so much beach time and really wanted to leave after eating, but we knew that would be rude to our guests. Another example is from Costa Rica, and it is known as "Tico Time." Tico Time is Costa Rican time. In Costa Rica, it is the norm to fashionably late or even a little more. It is not considered rude; people are just really laid back and not in a hurry there. I would say appointments there are really more like suggestions or "ballpark" figures. It took some getting used to, but it actually ended up being a breath of fresh air. It made me realize how we are always in a hurry and always on the go. The laid back lifestyle of a Costa Rican is one I wouldn't mind adopting!

Another thing I have realized is that here in the U.S., we have available to us almost anything we want. No matter where you are, you can pretty much walk into any store and buy what you are looking for. This is not true in other places. In Costa Rica this was very apparent. While volunteering, one of our professors accidentally broke a plastic chair in the church, so we had to buy a new one. You would never believe that finding a plastic chair would be a difficult task, but it was. There was no Walmart or Home Depot anywhere around us. We eventually found one as we were driving around going to store after store. It was sitting outside of some kind of random store and it actually was not an item for purchase, but our professor was able to buy it from the man anyways. I think we take for granted how easy we have access to such a vast selection of items in any store we go into here. (500 Words).

## G. CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

Complete essay for either certification 250-500 words

Criteria for Either Certification	Describe one or more substantive examples of productive and valued community service in which you participated that benefited individuals from other nations/cultures.
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My trip to Costa Rica was a service learning project where I volunteered in a very poor community in a town outside of San Jose. The town was a Nicaraguan immigrant community. It was a week-long trip, where we spent Monday through Friday in the community church teaching English to the children. There was a wide age range of children because some were too young to go to school, some could not go to school because they could not afford a uniform, or some did not go because they were not made to (due to lack of education of the parents' I would assume). Many of the children that did not go to school would spend the day at the church where the pastor would look after them. During the day, we would have "class" with the kids and teach colors, numbers, places, and sight words in English. We would also play games with them and try to use only English. At the end of our trip, we also left notes with the volunteer agency on what all we taught and what all the kids already knew for the next group of volunteers that come in, so that they don't teach the same things. We had a few pre-med students in our group, so we also held a check-up clinic one day. We advertised it earlier in the week and on the day of, there must have been half the town lined up around the church! We did simple things like triage-taking height, weight, calculating BMI, and blood pressure. We were told that the only health care the people get are from the volunteers that come in. Many of them have never actually been to see a doctor. This trip was a real eye-opener for me. This was the first time where I have ever been exposed to poverty like this; this town was literally adjacent to a landfill. The buildings/homes were all constructed of scrap metals and boards. The kids ran around in the dirt roads barefoot. They had so little, but at the same time they seemed liked the happiest kids on earth when we were playing with them. (360 words)

## H. FUTURE IMPACT

Complete essay for either certification 250-500 words

How have your global learning experiences impacted your career goals/understanding of your major area of study? How do you think these experiences will impact your future personal and professional growth?

My global experiences have impacted my life in a huge way that I never would have imagined. It is because of my service trip to Costa Rica and my continued leadership studies that I now know exactly what I want to do with my life and my career. I have always wanted to be a doctor, but I never knew much beyond that. I now want to get my masters in Public Health and then go to medical school. I wish to get my masters now because it is my goal to one day be able to start a clinic or hospital in an

impoverished community overseas. Getting my master in Public Health will better enable me for this and teach me how to assess community health care needs and also how to implement community programs. I wish to be a leader in whatever community I end up in, and work together with a team towards making the community sustainable. I hope to be able to travel the rest of my life (after all my schooling of course and whenever I can during), and be able to bring healthcare along with me by doing mission trips and maybe something like Doctors Without Borders. My global experiences only make me want to travel more and experience everything there is to experience in our world.(250 words)

**Certification with Distinction, in addition to completing A-H, complete either I or J I in 250-500 words.**

**I. CULTURAL IMMERSION**

Criteria for Certification with Distinction	Describe one or more insights that you gained from your immersion experience about a different nation/culture.
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**J. LEADERSHIP/RECOGNITION IN GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP**

Criteria for Certification with Distinction	Describe examples of your leadership roles assumed and/or recognition/awards received for work and contributions as a global citizen.
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