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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 with Distinction. She spent 4 weeks studying Spanish in Mexico, at 18 weeks in Ghana as an exchange student.*

## **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 relied on my foreign language proficiency the entire time that I was in Mexico. My house Mom did not speak or understand English at all. Therefore, the only way for us to communicate was in Spanish. It was imperative that I began speaking Spanish quickly in order to communicate at home and with local business owners. I wanted to be hospitable. Before traveling out of the U.S, I thought that I enjoyed all Spanish cuisine but I realized that was not the case when I got to Mexico. My house Mom asked me consistently about the food and in a polite way I had to specify my likes and dislikes. She was an excellent cook and very observant so noticed what foods I responded well to and which ones I did not. In addition to food, we held conversations the first week that caused us both frustration because we did not understand each other. I knew that we had to talk so I pushed myself speak the language even though I was extremely uncomfortable about making mistakes. Being immersed in the culture I did have time to think about being perfect, how I looked while speaking the language( all the things that concerned me as I learned). I had to be in the moment. I had to talk to business owners to purchase merchandise, taxi-drivers, neighbors, lecturers, conversation partners, etc. I had to live and after the first week of being in the environment I became very comfortable. I held often conversations with my

coursemates families as well as my own family . Finally, in class we were required to have oral exams so proficiency was expected and required to pass my 2002 Spanish class.

Next , in Ghana while taking an Oral Literature class we had to watch a video. It was spoken in English and although English is the "official" language, it is not their native language so the students did not understand the content being spoken. They said "He is speaking too fast.". One of my classmates asked me did I understand the video and would I mind periodically explaining what was happening. I agreed to his request. As I explained to the class and they were grateful and I was too. This request caused me to listen more attentively because I wanted to pass on the the right information in the simplest way possible. (402 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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In Ghana I was was required to write a group paper with some of my classmates. Although English is their "official language" they speak and write British English which is slightly different from American English. In addition to this many of my course mates speak local languages as well. We were not given specific directions for our assignment but we were expected to figure out what to do, so writing the paper was challenging for me in more ways than one. Four of my teammates were natives of Ghana and knew the school system very well. It was challenging for me to work in a group, in a culture that I did not understand. I was afraid but I realized that it was what I had to do to make my grades and get acquainted with my classmates. At times our methods were extremely complicated, so I suggested simpler ways to get the job done in a fair, consistent, and concise manner. I had to trust individuals that I did not know with a major grade. That was a challenge. In the end the paper turned out well but I did not agree with our use of language because I never heard or felt a collective voice or even a touch of my voice in the paper and that was difficult. I had to compromise my feelings though for the benefit of the entire group. The use of language was definitely a cultural difference although it was English. This group project gave us time to discuss cultural differences and similarities as well. It gave us a chance in a small group setting to ask questions and address myths about both cultures. We were able to connect as people -- peers working toward a common goal and that was very rewarding. (298 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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I learned that American culture is a very ,very,busy culture. We have so much to do in a days time that we rarely relax . I learned that if we do not have something to do it makes us uncomfortable and unproductive. It took my friends and I quite a long time to relax while we were in Ghana. For many weeks we were anxious to do something before school began. We talked in detail about how slow the time passed. It seemed so abnormal not to have so many task to complete in a short amount of time. I noticed once school began how much I missed being able to go to my Professor's office, or have access to them when I needed help with assignments. It was not common to go to the professor's office you had questions. They had teacher's assiatants and they were the point of contact. Another major difference was the students did not ask questions in class. I thought it was strange because it was a bit of a taboo to ask questions. In the States students make the choice not ask questions but for the most part we have that option if we needed it. I noticed that in both the Spanish culture and African culture they were extremley family oriented and communal . This is different from my native culture which is more individualistic. I also noticed while traveling foreigners connected much more quickly with one another . I met many friends as we traveled the country. And the fact that we were foriengners was the underline factor that brought us together. This is the same pattern with exchange students that are visting the States. It's fun . Another difference is that no prices where set on the merchandise. It was a bartering type of system. I enjoyed that becuause I was able to get lots of merchandise at good prices. Once I learned the market the natives learned that I was not a tourist. Finally , as stated in the beginning, the concept time is not like our concept at all. I began to appreciate not having so much to do in a day. One the other had when events started hours later than the scheduled time it was very frustrating. Eventually I learned coping methods so that I could relieve that stress. I would have someone call me when the event was about to start so that I could be in attendance and that simple act saved me a lot of time and energy. (424 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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I participated in several Teleconferences while in Ghana. I talked to elementary, middle, high and college students. The point of these conferences were to help build a bridge between students from different countries and the Ghanaian community. I spoke to students from Canada and New Jersey and encouraged them about the importance of traveling. I also encouraged them on the importance of programs like Study Abroad. I realized, in comparison, how easy it was for me and my friends to study abroad versus many of the Ghanaian students. Unless their families had money or they were in a position of power they were less likely going to be given this great experience. I realized how many opportunities we have as Americans. I was also challenged because I saw how we take so many of the opportunities for granted. It was important for me to get the students thinking about the world as a larger entity. I wanted them to think that they could do it just as we did. I also talked to many of the students on the African side as well because I wanted them to know that they could be all they wanted to be so do not limit themselves. That they could be advocates of change in their communities as well as the world. We danced, sang, performed plays, and poetry. They asked questions and we answered and afterward snacks were served. These were educational experiences as well as fun. (250 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?

Since studying abroad I have applied to join the Peace Corps after college. I was unsure about my future plans but after hearing about this program I thought it was a perfect fit because after going to school overseas, I wanted to serve overseas. I enjoy traveling and learning other cultures. I also saw a big need to teach English in a way that is not so intimidating for the students. I noticed that many students are required to learn English and because the experience is so complicated they shy away from teaching it. In this way I can relate because although I am a native speaker of English it was complicated for me to learn as well. Traveling has helped me to appreciate other cultures as well as my own culture. I learned that it is important to understand and accept myself for who I am as a person. To respect, honor, cherish and be confident in who I am as a person. Which is important when you travel. Traveling has helped to broaden my perspective about people and their beliefs. It has also sparked my passion to travel the entire world. I want to serve in a capacity that requires me to travel. I want to teach abroad. I think these experiences are also great conversation topics. I have been able to encourage others to travel abroad because of my experiences. And since I work with children, many of them are from different nations I am able to understand some of the difficulties they experience. These were the experiences that helped to make the decision to become a teacher. (270 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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From being immersed into a culture I learned that the natives appreciate it when I attempted to learn their culture and their language. American 's and the English have bad reputations of being snobbish and rude and for a while I was treated with disdain. But after some time had passed and the locals saw that I demonstrated the opposite attitude I was welcomed by them. They studied me and eventually I gained their trust. I was able to get the right amount of produce for the right price. At first thi was not the case, I would get a lot less than I should have gotten. I gained respect for culture of Africans and Mexicans and I learned that although at time I may have a rough time in life sometimes other people have it much harder than I do. I also learned not everyone in those places are poor. I met many wealthy people. I learned the importance getting rest. I learned the importance of relaxing. I also learned what it means to take life one day at a time. Being out of my comfort zone I learned to take each day as it came because no two days were ever alike. I was able to celebrate small victories and deal with challenges with ease. I learned to depend on people and build community because I could not do everything all by myself. I learned how to enjoy the moment . I learned that good food is very important to me. I learned that where ever I go when I am home sick I should drink Coca-Cola because it gives me a piece of home. I learned that I like earrings. I learned that I miss seeing Fall so much because Ghana was hot the entire time that I was there. I learned that no matter where I go I must be proud of who I am. I learned that my smile was contagious. (326 words)

**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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