

## Colby Around the World. The OCS blog

### GUIDELINES AND POLICIES FOR POSTING

- **Short and sweet** is a good rule. Blog posts should ideally be between 300-500 words each but may be as long as needed to be in order to convey your message. They can also be in the form of a photo essay or “postcard from abroad”.
- **Share photos, videos and links.** Pictures are worth a thousand words!
- **Be honest.** Share your perspective in a mature, honest voice on the different aspects of the study abroad experience.
- **Include a** one to two sentence author byline and a catchy title for each entry.
- **Obtain written or recorded permission** for anyone who appears in your photos or videos or who you’ve interviewed for your blog.

#### In your blog posts, please adhere to the following:

- Use appropriate language and proof read. Inappropriate, offensive, disrespectful, slanderous or libelous, sexually suggestive content and comments will not be posted.
- Refrain from mentioning or displaying excessive use of alcohol or illegal drugs or associated paraphernalia. While a glass of wine over dinner is acceptable and encouraged in numerous cultures, binge drinking is not.
- Do not plagiarize or use copyrighted images that do not belong to you. If you’re in doubt, ask permission! And always give credit where credit is due.
- Consider your audience. You do not know who may read your blog so tailor it to what you would be comfortable sharing with anyone. Ask yourself if you want your grandmother ...or a future employer to stumble across your post.
- Keep in mind that you are representing Colby College.

#### Tips for writing a good blog post:

- Keep your posts brief, conversational, and fun!
- Be honest and authentic.
- Try to write about a single experience (trying a new dish, going to a concert or festival, an encounter with a local, or any of the topics listed below) instead of cramming your entire study abroad adventure into 500 words.
- Reflect on your experience. What you did that day or that week is always a good starting point, but try to go deeper. Instead of just documenting your adventures, ask yourself what surprised you or what you learned. Writing can help you digest your experience as you live it. And who knows — once you’ve returned home, your thoughtful blog could allow you to better articulate what you learned to a future employer.
- If you’re stuck, try writing a list — they are a helpful way to organize your ideas and share them with others.
- Share photos. Photos are a great way for your readers to get an inside look at your studies abroad, and could even [help you boost your resume](#) (really!).
- And remember, HAVE FUN!

**Editing:** After you submit your post, OCS will review and edit it, if necessary. Minor edits (grammatical, etc.) will be made without consult. Should your content need to be edited, we’ll send it back for your review.

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

Colby College Off-Campus Study Office reserves the right to edit your submissions as we see fit before we publish them.

By submitting my post for publication on the OCS blog, I agree to abide by the guidelines set forth above and authorize Colby College to share my information as contained in the blog post.

\*Student blog entries posted to this blog may not reflect the opinions and recommendations of Colby College or Colby’s Off-Campus Study office. The blog is intended to give students and others a forum for free expression of thoughts and experiences abroad in a respectful space.