

## OBJECTIVES WORKSHEET

Recently much attention has been paid to the clarification of objectives for the management of business and industry. Also, as every education major knows, objectives play an important role in lesson and course design and in education in general. In the last several years the clarification of objectives has entered the personal sphere as well. Time management and personal productivity seminars stress the importance of setting personal goals and monitoring one's progress towards achieving them.

The process of setting objectives is a valuable exercise as you prepare for your Study Abroad experience. For if you are not clear as to what you want from your sojourn abroad, you will have no way of knowing whether you are accomplishing your goals. In addition, by considering your personal goals for your Study Abroad experience you will begin to understand your motivations for wanting to live and study abroad.

Here is a list of the objectives most commonly given by Americans going overseas. Put an "X" next to all that apply to you.

1. Advancement in future job or profession.
2. Challenge of living and studying overseas.
3. Opportunity to increase future salary.
4. Pressure from friends or parents/teachers.
5. Desire to expand your own horizons.
6. Desire to experience an exotic foreign place.
7. Desire to learn another language and culture.
8. Desire to keep up with classmates and friends who have been overseas.
9. Desire to get away from the U.S.
10. Need for a change.
11. Desire to get away from something in personal or college life.
12. Hope that the new setting will solve something distressing in personal, college, or family life.
13. Hope that foreign experience will stop the drift, uncertainty, or pointlessness in your personal or college life and give it new meaning.
14. Other (specify).

If you are like most people, you have checked several items. You will want to review this list from time to time while you are abroad to check whether you are making progress on achieving your objectives. You might find it helpful to write in your journal about your feelings and motivations as you review this list.

Now go back through the list and note which three or four are **most** important to you now and put them in rank order. Consider these and the rest of the items carefully. Are there conflicts among the objectives that are most important now? Are there motivations on the list (or others that you've thought of) that you were unwilling to acknowledge? Almost everyone goes abroad with mixed motives, some of which we are not comfortable with. Over the next few weeks you may wish to talk about your motives with friends or family members. By clearly and honestly stating your needs and goals in your own mind (even if they are less idealistic than you would like), you

will be better able to establish realistic expectations for your sojourn abroad. Clear objectives and realistic expectations are the best beginning for your Study Abroad experience.