

## **International Education requirement to graduate with University Honors from the Heltzer Honors Program**

Several of you have had questions or concerns regarding the international education requirement to graduate with University Honors from the Heltzer Honors Program, so I will try to explain this requirement a bit more.

First of all, please understand why we have this requirement. As our world becomes smaller due to changes in communication and travel, our ability to interact with peoples from other cultures and countries has greatly increased. We want for all students to be global citizens, and aware of the world outside of North Carolina and the United States. That is why we require that students have some experience with another culture to graduate with honors.

**This does NOT mean that you must travel abroad. We are very willing to work with students who cannot travel abroad. If you don't think that an international trip will be feasible for you, then you can propose an alternative experience that can take place in the US instead. It could be something that you do while in Boone or in your hometown. Bring a proposal to us, and then we'll meet with you to discuss your ideas and plans.**

We do believe that traveling to another country can be an incredibly valuable experience both academically and personally, so we strongly encourage students to study, research or provide service abroad if that is possible. The following are options:

Participate in an academic (credit bearing) study abroad program during a semester, year or a summer. Students must receive ASU academic credit for this experience. See <http://www.international.appstate.edu/index.php> for information on semester, year and summer study abroad programs.

There are also courses offered both through the Heltzer Honors Program (HON courses) and through other departments on campus that have an international component; often these courses focus on a specific topic during the semester, and then go abroad during fall or spring break, or at the end of the semester. Please see <http://www.international.appstate.edu/education/shortterm.php> for a list of courses.

The Appalachian and the Community Together (ACT) office on campus also sponsors multiple alternative spring break courses during each spring semester. Some of these trips are within the United States, but some are also international. This is considered a service learning abroad program. Please see <http://www.international.appstate.edu/education/shortterm.php> (under Spring Break Programs) for more information.

You may also devise a research project that would require you to travel abroad to conduct or gather your research. Bring a proposal to us explaining your project.

If you choose to take advantage of a study, service or research abroad opportunity, funding may be available. Your first resource should be the Office of International Education and Development. See <http://www.international.appstate.edu/index.php> and <http://www.international.appstate.edu/education/funding.php> for additional information.

The Office of Student Research (OSR) also provides research grants for students conducting research on campus, including international research. See <http://www.osr.appstate.edu/apply/index.html> for more information.

The Appalachian Honors Association (AHA!) also has small international travel grants available for longer programs in the fall, spring or summer. Information about these grants is sent to students via email when the application becomes available.

If you have any questions about this requirement, please contact Angela Mead, Honors Advising Coordinator, at [meadad@appstate.edu](mailto:meadad@appstate.edu).