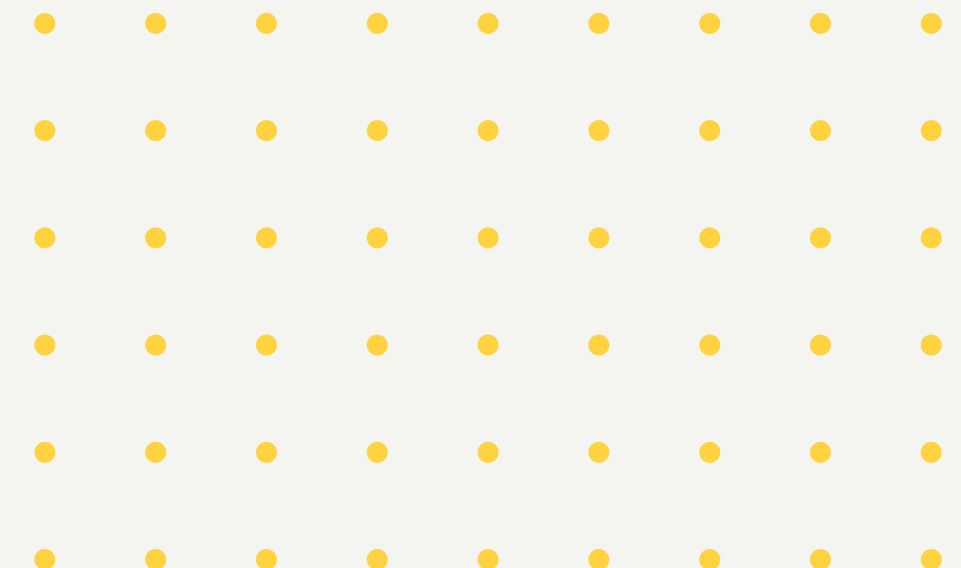


CGIS Blog Guide

All about the CGIS Blog

Types of Posts

How to Submit





Why a blog?

For student insight! We want to boost CGIS Alumnx voices to answer all types of questions, whether it's learning about cultures around the world, learning about your identities abroad and how that impacts your experience to insight about homestay & apartment living, internships, excursions, hobbies abroad, and more!

Did you know?

Writing a blog post will earn you 30 points towards the **CGIS Ambassador Program**, which allows alumni to collect points for participation in CGIS projects and events in exchange for prizes!

Submission Requirement: You must currently be participating in and/or have studied abroad on a CGIS program previously to submit a blog post.





Consider your
unique
identity and
perspective as
you write your
blog post!

How to create a CGIS Blog Post

CGIS accepts a variety of content to include on the blog. Through the writing process, we encourage you to consider your identities and how they were impacted by your experiences abroad. Did your perspective change at all, and if so, how and why? What do you think you will remember most from your experience 20 years from now? If you need inspiration for topics, we recommend looking through photos you took or chatting with those you spent time with abroad. There's likely a story to share there!

Students can refer to [current blog posts](#) and reach out to cgis@umich.edu with any questions.

Blog post requirements:

- Your study abroad location and the CGIS program you attended
- Your school, year, and when you went abroad
- Approximately 500-700 words + blog title

Process:

Draft post + submit
via form for review



CGIS reviews,
edits as needed



Posted on
CGIS Blog

Not sure where to start?

Consider one of these three post types:



Anecdotes

- Tell a story or share a reflection
- Offer advice to future study abroad students
- Voice your perspective

How-To Guide

- Was there something you wished you knew how to do when you went abroad? Share that knowledge!

Places To Go / Things To Do

- Are there places you went while abroad that you think every student should visit? Include detailed information on all the hows and whys.



Anecdotes

Description:

A student should tell a story where they share personal reflections or offer advice to someone going abroad. This can include identity-related discussions about your experience navigating a new country as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, as a person of color, or another identity that impacted your journey. These stories can also be non-identity related, but have an overarching theme such as “What I learned hiking through the New Zealand wilderness.”

Must Include:

- Your study abroad location and the CGIS program you attended (ex. Seoul, SK - Yonsei University)
- Your school, year, and when you went abroad (ex. LSA junior, went abroad sophomore summer)
- Some form of advice or message for readers - What did you learn from your experience?
- Approximately 500-700 words, plus blog title

Questions to consider when writing:

Why should students care about your story?

What do you want them to know about going abroad?

Example posts:

- [My First Day in Florence](#)
- [The City is the Classroom: My Photography Class in London](#)
- [Spanish 230 in Buenos Aires, Argentina](#)



How-To Guide

Description:

Was there something you wished you knew how to do when you went abroad?

You can write a guide on how a student might use public transit in Berlin or how they can save money on sightseeing in Prague.

Must Include:

- Your study abroad location and the CGIS program you attended (ex. Seoul, SK - Yonsei University)
- Your school, year, and when you went abroad (ex. LSA junior, went abroad sophomore summer)
- Step-by-step information about what you're interested in sharing
- Approximately 500 words, plus blog title

Questions to consider when writing:

What was the hardest part of this activity or process?

What are tips you wish you knew?

Example posts:

- [Arranging and Going on Trips](#)
- [Travelling While Abroad](#)
- [Society and Culture in Tokyo, Japan](#)





Description:

Are there places you went while abroad that you think every student should visit? These posts should aim to empower prospective study abroad students by providing them with the tools to explore and enjoy their program. Posts should include detailed information on how you traveled to the location, how much it cost, hours, how long you stayed, reservation requirements, why people should visit, etc. when creating a submission for this type of blog post.

Must Include:

- Your study abroad location and the CGIS program you attended (ex. Seoul, SK - Yonsei University)
- Your school, year, and when you went abroad (ex. LSA junior, went abroad sophomore summer)
- Detailed information on how you traveled to the location, how much it cost, hours, how long you stayed, why people should visit
- Approximately 500 words, plus blog title

Questions to consider when writing:

Imagine this reader just arrived in the country abroad and picked up a travel guide and will be using it to go sightseeing. How can you make it more clear?

Example posts:

- [Ginza - Art Aquarium](#)
- [Oktoberfest Tips and Tricks](#)
- [College Year in Athens](#)



Themes to Consider

No study abroad experience is the same! We are here to make space and welcome you to open, authentic conversations about study abroad for U-M students.

CGIS would like to encourage you to consider some of the topics and ideas mentioned here as you draft your blog post:



Identity

We would like to tag blog posts in the future with relevant identity identifiers to lift authentic voices and provide a resource for future students. Consider how your ability, gender, race, religion, sexuality, socioeconomic status, and more may shape your story.



Growth

Did you experience any challenges you'd like to share with others, or that you can look back on and see the humor in? What will stay with you 50 years from now? Embrace these moments as your unique experience and feel free to be frank about changes you noticed.



Program Specifics

Did your study abroad experience include a unique experience such as such as a homestay or internship? Your story and perspective can be so helpful to future students who want to learn more about specifics of a certain program!

Share your Story:

Once you've created your blog post draft, submit it via our form: myumi.ch/96zgg



Submission Details:

- You will be asked to share your blog content in the form of a Google Docs link - Please ensure that under sharing settings, general access is set to "anyone with a link" and "Editor."
- We ask that you share at least one photo from your time abroad with your submission - please contact us if you would like to opt out.
- By uploading your submission, you consent to edits and revisions by the CGIS team.



Please contact cgis@umich.edu if you have any questions!