

Travel Equivalent Options

If international travel is not a realistic option for a student, he or she may fulfill the travel requirement by choosing one of the Travel Equivalent options listed below. The goal of the Travel Equivalent options is to place the student in an environment where the student's cultural background is not the primary culture of reference; the experience should place the student in an environment where they not only learn about another culture but also establish a connection with an organization or group over an extended period of time. The time commitment required is meant to be comparable to the day-time hours a student might spend on a 5-day travel experience. The criteria for a Travel Equivalent experience are as follows:

1) Service Option:

- a. 40 hours of service or involvement with an internationally focused organization or institution (e.g. foreign language library, immigrant community support agency, cultural organization or educational program)
- b. 10 hours of international communication (e.g. pen pal, Skype-ing, email) See your advisor for help contacting resources that can provide these experiences.

2) Host an International Exchange Student Option

- a. Throughout the process of hosting an international exchange student, keep a journal about the process of getting to know and living with someone from a different cultural background
- b. 10 hours of international communication (e.g. pen pal, Skype-ing, email) See your advisor for help contacting resources that can provide these experiences.

3) Intensive Educational Program or Institute Option

- a. Participate in an advanced level, intensive, supervised educational program that emphasizes learning a foreign language, examining international issues, and/or interaction with other international students. This type of program or institute must be pre-approved by a GCP advisor. The program should be approximately 40+ hours.
- b. 10 hours of international communication (e.g. pen pal, Skype-ing, email) See your advisor for help contacting resources that can provide these experiences.

- 4) Other: Students interested in other types of travel equivalent experiences that may be comparable to the options listed above should consult their GCP advisor. We list options constantly in our Google Classroom. Please check that frequently.

International Communication Options

Here are a few organizations that might help students find a peer with whom they can communicate. Many organizations like these exist; these are just some suggestions.

1. **www.epals.com** - With a free membership, epals will connect you with a student or a classroom in a region and language of your choosing.
2. **www.interpals.net** - InterPals offers a chance for online correspondence, cultural exchange, and foreign language practice.
3. **www.europa-pages.com/penpal_form.html** - Europa Pages offers you the option to exchange emails with someone who wants to practice their foreign language skills or someone who wants to exchange cultural experiences.