Overview of seeking HSSP credit for health-related coursework completed while abroad

The Health: Science, Society and Policy (HSSP) program encourages HSSP majors and minors to engage in study abroad programs. Each year, approximately one third of HSSP students participate in such programs. In recent years, HSSP students have gone to Chile, Denmark, England, Geneva, India, South Africa, Spain, and numerous other countries for their life-enriching study abroad experiences.

While some HSSP students do not take health-related courses abroad, others go abroad to expand their perspectives on health and health care, as well as cultural differences in understandings of health, illness, and well-being. Many programs offer health-related internship and field experience components that fulfill the HSSP hands-on-experience (HOE) requirement.

To seek HSSP credit for any course or HOE taken abroad, you will need to work with both the Office of Study Abroad (OSA) as well as the HSSP Program.

A. Before going abroad
If you are a HSSP major or minor seeking HSSP credit for your study abroad work, follow these steps:

Step 1. Do your research: Review the HSSP Study Abroad website to develop a plan based on your own interests and goals.

Step 2. Review the OSA’s “Get Started.”

Step 3. Speak with an OSA advisor.

Step 4. Choose the course(s)/HOE you want to take and finalize your plan.

A. If you are not seeking HSSP credit for any course/HOE while abroad, then you don’t need HSSP’s signature.

B. If the course/HOE is on the List of Study Abroad Courses & HOEs that HSSP has pre-approved, then
   For Spring/Fall Programs: 1. Complete the OSA’s Academic Proposal of Study Form, then
   2) Request HSSP’s written signature from Kathryn Howell, the HSSP Program Administrator during her Study Abroad Office Hours or Prof. Curi at OSA’s Study Abroad Extravaganza.
   For Summer Programs: use the OSA’s Petition for Study Abroad Summer School Transfer Credit.

C. If the course/HOE is not on the List of Study Abroad Courses & HOEs that HSSP has pre-approved, then complete this Petition to request review of a course/HOE that isn’t on this List. Prof. Curi will notify you whether or not the HSSP faculty has approved your petition.

Note: If the HSSP faculty doesn’t approve that course/HOE, then you may explore another option(s).

B. After returning from abroad:
1. Follow the OSA’s Returning to Brandeis checklist, including attending OSA’ Re-Entry Workshop.

2. To receive HSSP credit for courses for which you received the SAL’s written pre-approval, you need to complete:
   - The Registrar’s online Petition to Request Substitution for a Requirement form, or
   - If petitioning for HOE credit, the Registrar’s Substitution Request for HSSP Hands-On-Experience, include a pdf of 20-25 pages, double spaced, of original written work.

Note: Because programs and internships vary, there is no prescribed format or layout for the paper. While many programs require papers that are 20-25 pages or longer, other programs ask for a range of different written work, for example a series of journal entries and/or case studies. As you prepare this written work, be mindful that you should not merely report experience, but also locate your experience with in broader aspects of HSSP. Additionally, you may want to reflect on how your organization/project fits into the larger arena of health care. For example, did you observe how social conditions affect health? Were there policies that helped or hindered the goals of your organization/project? It may be useful to address the specifics of what you did, but also why you were asked to do it. If, however, this work is not in English, you should submit it and also include a 1-2 page (double-spaced) abstract/summary, in English, that addresses what you did and how it relates to HSSP.