

5 Questions to Ask Before Saying “Yes” to an

ONLINE GLOBAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE

1. Can I see the syllabus or program outline?

What are the learning goals for the program? Do these align with the goals of potential participants and/or curricular expectations? Is it clear what is expected of participants to be successful?

2. What technology is required to participate and how is digital privacy protected?

Is the technology available to participants for free or at a reasonable cost? Is it readily available to participants in all locations? Is it accessible for students with disabilities? Are staff and participants' privacy rights protected?

3. Is the program structured to be equitable and inclusive?

Does the experience benefit participants and partners in all locations? Are they all engaged in the planning and implementation of the experience? Have meeting times, language use conventions, and required technologies been decided upon mutually and with consideration for partners and participants in all locations?

4. Does it dig deep?

Is the experience intensive if short in duration or sustained over a longer timeline? Does it offer ample opportunities for spontaneous interpersonal interactions between participants? Does it offer opportunities for reflection and debriefing in addition to required work and/or study?

5. How are participants prepared to be successful intercultural learners?

Are they prepared to engage in perspective taking? Can they recognize and be respectful of differing cultural norms around communication, politeness, taboo topics, etc.? How are they prepared to observe and reflect upon dynamics of power and privilege that impact interactions between participants?

For more on online global learning experiences and virtual exchange, check out our [An Education Abroad Professional's Guide to Online Global Learning Experiences](#).