Program Review

Programs on Macalester's approved list have been reviewed and meet the criteria below:

1. The program (1) is offered by a U.S. or international accredited, degree-granting institution of higher education; or (2) issues transcripts through a U.S. or international accredited, degree-granting institution, or has a special credit-granting relationship with Macalester (e.g. ACM, CIEE, DIS, IES, etc.).
2. The program offers students significant opportunities to build:
    1. Intellectual Independence
        1. Make choices that further their individual learning goals.
        2. Further learning goals associated with a Macalester education;
        AND
    2. Self-awareness
        1. Be exposed to multiple ways in which people draw upon aptitudes, values, and aesthetic interests in professional work and civic involvement.
        2. Consider experiences in the context of the program / host community from the perspective of that community or its members.
        3. Be exposed to the ways in which life in the host community interacts with or otherwise relates to life in their home environments.
3. In accordance with a student's individual learning goals, the program facilitates (where appropriate):
    1. Cultural Learning
        1. Provide intentionally structured or inherent exposure to local populations, institutions and infrastructure.
        2. Enhance cultural learning through reflection or other curricular means;
        OR
    2. Applied Experience
        1. Provide for direct engagement in a field of interest combining theory and practice.
        2. Enable students to conduct primary research, produce creative work, or be involved meaningfully in local civic society;
        OR
    3. Language Learning
        1. Offer formal language instruction.
        2. Offer instruction in the student's area(s) of study conducted in the target language (for students who have attained a sufficiently advanced level).
        3. Offer interaction with competent speakers of the target language in a variety of settings.
        4. Offer exposure to different kinds of information sources in the target language;
        OR
    4. Enhanced Learning through Curricular Opportunities Unavailable at Macalester

1. Establish and articulate a strong, clear fit between the content, goals and location.
2. Provide a distinctive or even unique context for the students' field of study.
3. Offer courses, fields of study, or human resources beyond what is available at Macalester.
4. The program's cost is balanced with the overall quality educational experience provided.
5. The program encompasses one semester of study that does not present an irresolvable conflict with Macalester's academic calendar.
6. The program meets standards for health, safety, and student support as determined by SARC:
   1. Health
      1. Coordinates or provides recommendations for the healthcare of students.
   2. Safety
      1. Macalester College does not allow students to study away in countries or areas within countries that have a US State Department Travel Advisory of Level 3 or 4 OR a US Centers for Disease Control warning level 3 unless approval is granted by the Travel Advisory Review Committee. Please view Macalester's Travel Advisory Policy (PDF) for complete details. Additionally, Macalester College reserves the right to not approve a student's study away plans solely based on safety and security concerns, regardless of whether a program's location is currently under U.S. State Department Travel Warning.
   3. Student Support
      1. Provides adequate student support for administrative processes, housing, co-curricular support, etc.

In approving participation in a particular program, Macalester warrants that to the best of its judgment, it is an appropriate curricular option and is worthy of Macalester credit. Except for those programs it organizes and runs, however, Macalester does not directly control how study away programs operate. The Center for Study Away will provide advice and guidance on study away programs, but the ultimate responsibility for the "proper fit" of the program and a successful learning experience rests with the student.

Note: Applying to a program on the Approved List does not ensure approval by SARC.