



## Global UGRAD Program

### ESSAY WRITING TIPS

#### FOLLOW THE PROMPT

Before you start writing, know what you are writing about. Review the prompt and brainstorm your ideas related to the topic. Once your ideas are on paper, create an outline that highlights some of your best ideas and organizes them in a way that makes sense.

#### BE HONEST

A quality of Global UGRAD participants is leadership, and along with leadership comes honesty. Essay readers can usually tell when someone is being dishonest. Don't inflate what you have accomplished. Instead, focus on the wonderful and diverse things you have accomplished. Global UGRAD participants aren't people who are perfect - they are people who are ready to learn, lead, and inspire.

#### DON'T PLAGIARIZE

In the United States, we take plagiarism very seriously and there are consequences to copying the work of others. Your essay should be your own words and your own ideas, no one else's. This doesn't mean you can't ask a friend to edit your work, but make sure they aren't writing it for you.

#### TELL YOUR STORY

Everyone has a story. Your life is unique; it's yours and we want to hear about it. Sharing about how an experience, whether good or bad, impacted you or helped you see the world in a unique way can make your essay really stand out. Be proud of your story.

#### BE SPECIFIC

Instead of writing about general ideas, share details and examples that help us get to know you. If your goal is to help your community, write about how and what exactly you want to accomplish. If you love to volunteer, write about a particular service activity that really impacted you. Being specific helps you stand out.

### INCLUDE YOUR LONG-TERM VISION OR GOALS

Being a Global UGRAD participant can open many doors for your future. In your essay, share what you hope to achieve by being a participant. Convey why you want to be on the program and how it relates to your long-term vision.

### REVIEW, REVIEW, REVIEW!

Before you hit submit, review your writing. Spell-check and read your essays aloud once or twice to catch grammatical errors. You can even have a friend read your essays to receive their feedback.

GOOD LUCK!