GENERAL BLOGGING GUIDELINES

- Website must be set to public, a standalone website (not Instagram), and the comment section must be turned on so that NSE staff can comment!
  - Free websites: Wordpress, Blogspot, Wixsite, Weebly
- Update a minimum of once a week! Updating more than once a week is welcome and encouraged!
- Entries can be in text, video, or photos with detailed caption. Whatever form they are in, they should include answers to prompts.
- Once on exchange, while following a prompt, still always share what has been going on in your week: highs and lows, and in general, how exchange has gone and what you have been up to.
- Please note NSE is study away, NOT study abroad. Please do not refer to your exchange as study abroad.
- Please do NOT share your exact housing location. Talk about your housing in general terms. Don’t share anything that would give away a specific room, floor, or address.
- Do not share the exact details of your class schedule. It is fine to say your “morning or Monday creative writing class,” but don’t share the exact time, section number, or location.
- If you get a job, please do not share the exact place. Example: Instead of saying you are working at Long Horn, please just say you are working at a restaurant.
- Samples of past blogs can be found at https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/student_success_center/academic-engagement/national-student-exchange/outgoing-students.php

“ABOUT ME” SECTION

Include:

- Name
- Where you are from originally
- Home and host schools
- Exchange period (fall, spring, or both)
- Major/minor
- Anything else you would like to share
- What is NSE?
BLOG PROMPTS

First Entry (prior to departure)

Why are you doing NSE and why did you select your host school? What was the process to first apply for NSE and what did you think of that? What was the process to get set up at your host school (in their system, class registration, etc.)? How did that go for you? What are you doing to get ready to leave? How have you prepared?

Second Entry (prior to departure)

What are your goals for while you are on exchange (both personal and academic)? What are you excited about and what makes you nervous about your upcoming exchange? Why? What is on your bucket list so far for your exchange? How does NSE fit in with your academic plan and career preparation?

Third Entry (within a few days of arriving)

How did your travel go getting to your host school? What were some of the first things you noticed about your new area? First impressions, please!

WEEKLY ENTRY PROMPT IDEAS

Here are some suggested weekly prompts for once you start your exchange (You pick what to share. Minimum of one blog post per week. Always share how your week has gone and general highs and lows).

- What types of classes are you taking? Do you find the course work harder, easier, or about the same as at UofSC? Are classes smaller, bigger, or the same? Do you like the faculty?
- What is the campus like? Favorite spots? Any unique features? How is it similar or different to UofSC?
- What is the area around the campus like? Is it a more urban area or more rural? How is it similar or different than Columbia? Any favorite locations you have discovered?
- What is the weather and climate like at your exchange location? What do you think of it?
- Favorite food places that you have discovered? Any local places that you love? Have you tried any new foods that are special to your host area? Thoughts on those?
- What is the last picture on your camera roll? Tell your audience about it!
- Favorite spot to study? How have your study habits changed?
- Have you had a part-time job while on exchange? How did you get it and how has it gone balancing work and school?
- If you had a playlist for your NSE exchange experience, what would be on it and why?
- How have you kept in touch with family and friends at home while on exchange?
- What is something you would like to do MORE of while on exchange?
- What have you done to relax or destress while on exchange?
WEEKLY ENTRY PROMPT IDEAS (continued)

- Have you made use of any of the campus recreation facilities? What do you do to work out?
- A friend or family member visits you on exchange- where would you take them and why?
- Did you do something this week that made you happy?
- What is something you are thankful for right now?
- Who or what has had the biggest impact on your exchange experience?
- What has been the most challenging experience of your exchange so far and how did you tackle it?
- Have you gone to any festivals, fairs, concerts, or cultural experiences while on exchange?
- How have you struggled on exchange? How have you thrived while on exchange?
- Do things cost about the same amount at your host school? Or are they more/less expensive? How much is gas? Have there been any unexpected expenses that you did not account for?
- What are some things coming up that you are looking forward to?
- Have you followed politics while on exchange? How are they similar or different to what you noticed at UofSC? Are students more or less politically engaged at your host school?
- Have you developed any new skills while on exchange? What are they and how have they developed?
- Describe one interesting person you have met and a conversation you have had.
- Has your outlook or perspective changed while on exchange? How? Think about your global view, local view, major, etc.
- How have you navigated the area (did you take a car, is there a shuttle, etc.)?
- Did you have any pre-conceived ideas about what the area would be like? How were you right or wrong?
- How have you gotten involved in campus life?
- What has been your favorite class? Why?
- Are you living on or off campus? How is that going? What are the facilities like?
- Are there any fashion trends you have noticed that are different at your host school? Has your wardrobe changed?

WRAP UP POSTS

Please complete all three of these prompts while you are on exchange or when you return home in 3-4 separate entries.

- What have you learned about yourself through this experience?
- Top 10 (or 15, 20, 30, etc.) things you learned on exchange about your host school/area/state/yourself.
- Look back at your goals you made before you left for exchange. Did you meet or not meet those goals, how? How has this experience impacted your personal, academic, and future career goals?
- Reflect on your bucket list: What did you cross off your list? What did you not cross off? Favorite memory from your list? Are you planning to go back and visit in the future?
OTHER POTENTIAL TOPICS TO COVER

- Funny Stories
- People you have met/new friends
- Sporting events
- Involvement and activities on campus
- Regional food
- Regional language/slang
- Things you miss from UofSC
- Local attractions/cities you've visited
- Ways you have seen yourself grow
- Local culture/culture shock
- Any trips you might have taken