Histories, Heroes and Heroines 2021

Parental/Other Bill Payer FAQs

That you are reading this means that your student is interested in the Histories, Heroes and Heroines, an MTU faculty led summer study abroad program located in Greece. This may be the first time that you have heard of this program. You may have questions; I know I would! Below are the answers to some, and of course I will be happy to answer any other questions you may have. I am excited by the opportunities we will have in 2021 to build upon the successes of the faculty led programs that the Dept of Social Sciences has been leading in Europe since 1997. I hope your student will be able to be a part of this excellent program.

Kind Regards

Carl Blair

FAQs

1. **Why study abroad? Our student is here to get a (put your favorite dept here) degree not travel!** Yes, the primary goal for many students is achieving a degree and then on to a position. But how to do this most effectively? We are just beginning to systematically gather data but there seems to be an extremely strong link between study abroad and interest by potential employers. Students who stand out, who do something different are those who get hired.

2. **Wow this program costs a lot, a $4,100 program fee and 6-9 credits of tuition!** Yes that is a lot of money, but be aware that the costs of college are not just tuition. MTU estimates it costs around a bit over $500 plus tuition for every credit earned at MTU during the academic year. If one divides the program fee by 9 credits the total is more than quite reasonable compared to academic year costs.

3. **Why go to Greece? Why not some more “foreign” country?** This is a question that I hear often. My answer is in three parts. 1. Greece is plenty foreign to a student from the USA – there will be culture shock (we address this). 2. Greece is a major world resource with whom the USA has and continues to develop ties, there will be many opportunities in the future for your student to do things in Greece and Europe as a whole. 3. I first visited/studied in Greece in the 1980s, I have come many times because it is really, really fun.

4. **Why take these courses when my student is not a Social Science major?** The classes are all ones that all count to our various SS degrees, however, they also are all also HASS listed. All students at Tech must take a minimum number of HASS classes – for most a minimum of four – the courses offered here will help towards your student’s timely graduation, or even make it possible to complete their program more quickly – at therefore a lower cost!

5. **OK, academics and costs are fine but what of the location, will my student be safe and happy?** We will be in major tourist and significant historic and archaeological locations,
all are secure and closely watched by security forces, as a parent myself I would not allow a child of mine into an area where I do not feel safe. So too in Greece, in my last visit – Summer 2018 – I encountered nothing but the famed Greek hospitality and kindness, and truly a bucket load of funny stories about these good kind folks, truly they are Greek – therefore they operate on a different and many would say higher plane of life, if you are their guest in their country, nothing, and I repeat nothing will be allowed to harm you, but many things will cause your student, and the MTU faculty to laugh themselves to near hysteria – by the by we will visit the location where that term was coined!

6. **What of the sites visited/activities done, why do them and how are they chosen?** This is easy, I can, and do lecture about the past and social development here at MTU, it is a lot more effective to do so in “in country” and then go and look at some temples, ruins, forts, beaches, monasteries, etc. to see what is meant. All activities are carefully designed to maximize the educational impact while not overloading the students so that it becomes a burden and not fun. The tour provider this year will be ETC – Education Tours Company, an excellent and long established firm, not the cheapest but I believe one of the best, who also run programs for Harvard, St. Olaf, U of M and dozens of others.

7. **I see that there is considerable free time. Why is that?** When I first put this program together, we discussed how/why 6-9 credits could be done in 4 weeks. The simple answer is that this program has about 35% more student contact hours per credit than a similar course would in Houghton. When your student is doing the program, they do it and nothing else, no jobs, clubs, or... Therefore, they need time to unwind, to sleep or go to somewhere else to see whatever, the free time adds to the experience. We do by the by monitor where folks go and when they come and go (hey I am a parent too, it’s what we do). Free time travel is not included in program fees.

8. **This is great! Can I come too?** Sure, the program is open to all, MTU students, non-MTU students, etc. But be aware, all will do all work!

9. **What about “Hidden Extras”?** This is one of my pet peeves in life, I hate when programs/trips have little extra charges; we do not! From the time we meet at the airport in Chicago until the students, and staff, return to the airport all program costs are covered by the tuition and program fee, of course free time travel is not covered, nor are some meals.

10. **This is great and answers most of my questions, but not all what should I do?** 1. Ask your student s/he may know. 2. Ask me, I truly am happy to answer them. 3. MTU has a Study Away office ask them.

11. **The Elephant in the Room, COVID 19:** This program will not take place unless MTU, ETC and I are convinced that all can do this safely, social distancing, medical precautions, all will be taken.

Thanks for looking and I hope your student will be able to join us for the 2021 season of Histories, Heroes and Heroines, and the by then 24th summer of MTU/Social Sciences work in Europe!
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https://huskycast.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=0458f1ea-a4cd-4c48-b144-ac2f010121a1