

Union College Blogging Contract, Guidelines & Tips

“A cardinal rule of blogging is this: post as though everyone you know will read your web log, because chances are very good that they will.”

-Gothamist.com

There are two types of bloggers:

bloggers: official student bloggers that are currently enrolled undergraduate students at Union.

abroadbloggers: Study Abroad program participants selected to blog while abroad in an approved program. Understand that everything you write will be published to the Web and will be accessible to anyone accessing the site.

Therefore:

- any slanderous material will result in an automatic dismissal from this project.
- we reserve the right to end our blogging relationship at our discretion at any time.
- discuss reality in your blog, however be careful not to make your blog too personal (i.e. “I have a crush on Jim, he’s so cute”) or reflect irresponsible behavior (i.e. “I got trashed last night at an awesome party!”).
- you are the only person that is allowed to update your blog. Do not give anyone your login information or allow anyone else to update it for you.
- don’t post inappropriate content (expletives, prejudices, chronic negatives, sexually explicit content or photos, purposefully inaccurate content, etc.). Offensive language or images are prohibited.
- Don’t share personal information or photos of other people unless you have their permission to do so.
- You must stay in housing provided by the program throughout your term abroad.

If you do not obey these guidelines or the minimum requirements for posting, you will be asked to do so or be excluded from any further blogging.

Instead:

- keep in mind your parents, siblings, roommate, and future employers will read this, in addition to prospective students, their parents, alumni, your professors and college administrators.

Do:

- discuss your daily activities, studies, adventures and thoughts.
- allow yourself to become comfortable with your blog, so that readers can eventually see you and your personality in your posts.
- keep a digital camera handy so you can take and post appropriate photos (e.g. events, activities)
- post at least once every seven days. More often is fine, but we recommend not exceeding four times each week.
- include photos as often as possible

abroadbloggers:

- Posts should be oriented around the excitements of studying abroad – the new places you’re going, the things you’re seeing, the people you’re meeting, the classes you’re taking, the things you’re learning, the cultural differences you’re encountering, the challenges you’ve faced and how you resolved them, etc.
- We’d like students back home who are considering going abroad to really be able to connect with your experiences and get excited about the possibilities for them.
- Please try to post at least 1-2 pictures each week of the various places you’re going, things you’re experiencing, etc.
- We would like you to start your blog 1-2 weeks before you go and continue to blog 2-3 weeks after you return to the U.S., with the possibility of updates six and 12 months after your return.

Comments

Anyone reading your blog will be allowed to post comments to your entries. These comments are moderated by the blog administrator; therefore only appropriate comments are posted for the public to see. We strongly encourage bloggers to respond to comments.

BLOGGER AGREEMENT:

I have read and agree to all of the guidelines set forth above.

(adapted from with great appreciation from SUNY New Paltz’s Blogging Contract written by Rachel Reuben-NP Webmaster with contributions by Penny Schouten- NP Study Abroad Marketing Coordinator and John Duncan, StudyAbroad.com)