Merits and Characteristics of Off-Campus January Term Courses and Semester Study Abroad Programs

**Off-Campus January Term Courses:**

1. Length: 4 weeks in January (at least 3 weeks spent abroad)
2. Linfield course taught by one or two Linfield faculty (10-12 students)
3. Language: English
4. Close and less formal interaction between students and faculty
5. Open to every Linfield student, although some courses have prerequisites
6. Various levels of engagement with the host culture
7. Emphasis on group experience and reliance
8. In-depth and fast-paced exploration of a specific topic in one or several cultures
9. Multidisciplinary and usually not major specific
10. Normally 20 to 30% of course offerings are service oriented
11. Most courses carry a Linfield Curriculum designation
12. May count toward a major or minor
13. Ideal for transfer students
14. Limited independent travel during the term
15. Participation based upon a competitive selection process

**Semester Abroad:**

1. Length: 3.5 – 5 months (fall or spring)
2. Variety of courses taught by non-Linfield faculty (with the exception of the faculty-led program in Oaxaca)
3. Language: depends on location
4. Culture-centered: lengthy immersion into a specific foreign culture
5. Various enrolling procedures depending on program; some programs require proficiency in a language other than English
6. Resident observers and partakers of the culture (family stay mandatory or other options provided, depending on program)
7. Emphasis on experiential learning, individual resilience and adaptability; transformation in self-awareness and world view
8. Holistic approach: variety of courses related to target culture (art, history, politics, sociology, etc.)
9. Multidisciplinary and usually not major specific, other than year-long language based programs
10. Lengthy commitment to volunteering and community service (required for some programs)
11. Most courses carry a Linfield Curriculum designation
12. Courses count toward various majors/minors
13. Recommended for all students
14. Possibility for individual travel during semester breaks
15. Participation based upon a competitive selection process