

Winterline Student Essential Eligibility Criteria

The mission of Winterline Global Education is to be a leader of international skills-based experiential education. Winterline offers skills-based gap, semester, and summer programs for young adults with an adventurous spirit and an interest in the world around them.

Winterline programs work with professional partners who offer high-quality training programs globally to teach participants a broad range of skills to develop competent and confident young adults. There is also an underlying curriculum that teaches a wide range of hard and soft skills built into the program design.

The health, safety, and wellbeing of our students and staff is a top priority of Winterline. Second, to that is the effective education of our students towards skills acquisition and greater confidence and competence. The wide variety of environments Winterline students live in and travel through can be remote, dynamic, culturally disparate, and physically, mentally, and emotionally demanding. These environments, along with the skills activities conducted and the living and traveling conditions encountered, require each student to be fully committed to and capable of working hard, taking personal responsibility, and working effectively as a member of the group to accomplish the goals at hand. Students must be willing to adapt their behaviors to shifting and differing expectations of the various partners, cultures, environments, and countries that they engage with, understanding that some instructions may not make sense to them at the time, but that instructions and restrictions are put in place based on assessed risks and expectations in a particular context.

Winterline embraces diversity and is committed to building programs inclusive of students with a variety of backgrounds and perspectives. A diverse student body will improve the experience of all participants.

The Essential Eligibility Criteria are applicable for all Winterline students. A qualified person is one who can meet the EEC for participation in the program activity.

Essential Eligibility Criteria for Participation on Winterline Programs:

Safety

Each participant must . . .

1. Be able to independently identify and recognize environmental hazards. These hazards may include, but are not limited to, falling objects/rocks, heights, loose rock and unstable surfaces, rugged steep and uneven terrain, moving water (fast or slow) such as rivers,

- creeks, surf, or tides; potentially hazardous animals and insects, cultural differences, new forms of transportation, and navigating foreign cities and new environments.
2. Recognize and understand the hazards and risks posed by other cohort members, which include, but are not limited to, fatigue, state of mind, and actions that may influence judgment and decision-making.
 3. Be able to cope with the stresses that exist when traveling for up to 9 months in physical and cultural environments that are in stark contrast to one's life back home.
 4. Be able to effectively notify Field Advisors, partner instructors, or other participants of personal distress, injury, or need for assistance.
 5. Act reliably around hazards or potentially dangerous situations to minimize risk even when not directly supervised.
 6. Understand and follow directions and instructions given by others to be able to successfully execute appropriate and perhaps unfamiliar, techniques or practices to avoid hazards and/or manage risks. These directions may be given before the hazard or risk is encountered or may need to be given during exposure to the hazard/risk and out of necessity and practicality are often given orally.
 7. Be able to stay alert and to focus attention for up to several hours at a time while traveling in remote areas, attending classes, or receiving instructions.
 8. Be able to respond appropriately to stress or crisis such as when encountering large and/or potentially hazardous situations, severe weather, or a medical emergency.
 9. If taking prescription medications, be able to maintain proper dosage by self-medicating without assistance from Field Advisors or partner organizations (except possibly in emergency situations).

Leadership and Program Behavior

Each participant must . . .

1. Work effectively as a member of a team despite potentially stressful and difficult conditions. This may require problem-solving on an interpersonal or group level as well as a willingness to accept differences.
2. Contribute to a safe learning environment — no verbal or physically inappropriate behavior of others is tolerated for any reason.
3. Be able to willingly and equally share responsibility with members of the cohort in daily activities. All students are learning the skills and being challenged by the conditions and activities; there can be no expectation that any other student will be able to continually assume a greater share of the work or that a field advisor can continually focus a greater share of his/her energy and time on one student.
4. Effectively communicate ideas and concerns on an individual and group level.
5. Have the cognitive ability to learn necessary skills given normal time limitations of Winterline programs.
6. Actively try to avoid rule-breaking, deception, and dishonesty both personally and among peers. Have an understanding of bystander behavior and actively work to prevent it.
7. Be able to share a room, tent, or other accommodations with Winterline students.
8. Be able to sit for extended periods of time during travel days.

9. Be able to carry and care for their own personal belongings. This may include carrying a backpack or other type of luggage over an extended period of time through airports, buses, trains, and other forms of transportation.
10. Understand that Winterline programs can be physically demanding and will require participants to be willing to challenge themselves.
11. Prevent and disclose any attempts at self-harm and self-destructive behaviors.

Travel Ethics**Each participant must . . .**

1. Learn and then practice responsible travel protocols.