



Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this letter to express my interest in the Study Abroad Program in Guatemala from the University of Massachusetts. As a Spanish major with avid interest in the cultural and social organization of Spanish-speaking countries, this would be an excellent opportunity for me to improve not only my language skills, but my understanding of the lifestyle faced by the citizens of Guatemala.

I am very passionate about education and economic issues plaguing many Spanish-speaking countries, especially those in central and South America. My goal is to volunteer with the Peace Corps upon graduation and hopefully use the skills I have gained in my academic career to build schools in impoverished areas. Eventually, I hope to be able to teach in these schools as well. I understand that this goal requires me to succeed academically, and I have dedicated myself to performing at the highest academic standard. I am currently a sophomore with 87 academic credits, largely due to my high involvement in AP courses in high school. In addition, I currently have a 3.88 GPA, which puts me in the top 10% of my class in my major.

I have had significant experience working with immigrants from various central and south-American nations, and I hope to have the pleasure of being able to visit there myself. I volunteer three times a week at a shelter for undocumented immigrants, where I learn about the circumstances that drove them to immigrate to the United States and about the struggles they faced in doing so. Many of them have fond memories of their lives back home, and I believe that their stories are absolutely beautiful. I hope to be given the chance to study abroad in Guatemala and experience some of these stories myself.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to your positive response.

Yours faithfully,
Mary Watterson

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