



GoBeyond Student Essential Eligibility Criteria

The mission of GoBeyond is to deliver outstanding experience-based adventures for young adults. Through supportive yet challenging course design we create environments that promote self-discovery as well as social, emotional and intellectual growth.

GB Adventures are non-competitive, service-based and most are run in countries distant from a student's country of origin. This is a core component because beyond the fun, living and learning abroad offers a perfect environment to develop leadership and communication skills. While most trips are only moderately physically challenging, all trips are designed to provide an intense emotional and interpersonal experience. Students are sometimes asked to do things they may not believe they are capable of doing. Part of our risk management process is to develop confidence that these activities can be accomplished. This confidence is based on our 40-year record of safety and the skills of our instructors along with the measured expectation that the student applicant is fully committed to and capable of working hard, taking responsibility for him or her self to work effectively in the group to achieve the goals of the program.

While the environment we create is appropriate for most, it is not appropriate for all. Successful GB students are in good physical and emotional health and have an interest in immersing themselves fully in novel communities. GB students are excited to learn new skills, experience new places and are capable of working positively within a close-knit team even when tired. They are enthusiastic, well mannered, open minded and have a healthy dose of curiosity. While it's natural for new students to be a little nervous before joining our team, GB is not appropriate for anyone dealing with behavioral, motivational, or rehabilitation issues.

The Essential Eligibility Criteria are applicable for all GoBeyond students and a qualified person is one who can meet the EEC for participation.

Physical Requirements

- Be in good general health and physical condition.
- Tolerate being several hours or up to a day away from medical facilities.
- Accept changes in diet
- Accept changes in living conditions and routine, which is likely to be very different from home

Attitude

- Come with an open mind and willingness to try new things.
- Maintain a positive attitude, even when challenged physically, mentally, or emotionally.
- Display tolerance, respect and compassion towards others.
- Participate in tasks that supports the group living environment

Safety and Judgment

- Be able to independently identify and recognize hazards and risks associated with international travel.
- Recognize and understand the hazards and risks posed by other participants, which include, but are not limited to, fatigue, state of mind, and actions that may influence judgment and decision-making.
- Recall and understand hazards and risks previously explained by instructors.
- Be able to effectively alert and warn others of potential or impending dangers such as broken equipment, suspicious individuals, falling objects or other environmental hazards.
- Be able to effectively signal or notify instructors or other students of personal distress, injury, or need for assistance.
- Be able to do the preceding warnings and notifications up to a distance of 70 feet and in conditions with limited visibility such as in darkness or inclement weather or with loud background noise.
- Act reliably around above stated hazards to minimize risk even when not directly supervised.
- Independently perceive, understand, and follow directions and instructions given by others to be able to successfully execute appropriate and perhaps unfamiliar, techniques to avoid hazards and /or manage risks.
- Be able to stay alert and to focus attention for up to several hours at a time while on project sites, attending classes, or receiving instructions.
- If taking prescription medications, be able to maintain proper dosage by self-medicating without assistance from instructors or others (except possibly in emergency situations).

Leadership and Expedition Behavior

- 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.
- Contribute to a safe learning environment—no verbal or physical inappropriate behavior of others is tolerated for any reason.
- Be able to willingly and equally share responsibility with fellow students in daily group chores. Each student may not do an equal share each day, but over a period of several days each student should do a proportionate share. 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 an instructor can continually focus a greater share of his/her energy and time on one student.
- Effectively communicate ideas and concerns on an individual and group level.
- Have the cognitive ability to learn necessary skills given normal time limitations of a GoBeyond experience.

Criteria for specific Activities

Travel

- Be able to move and navigate accommodations as necessary to perform tasks such as packing, cleaning, moving and recognizing and/or avoiding hazards.
- Be able to navigate crowded areas in group while avoiding hazards such as traffic, pedestrians, cyclists, etc.
- Be able to observe and assess the surrounding navigational environment, and the hazards that are inherent in transit and adventure activities.
- Be able to exit accommodations alone and fend for oneself while in the event of an emergency.
- Have the ability to have a third point of contact for balance purposes, such as with hand(s) or to hold a walking stick.

Hiking

- At minimum, be able to travel over and negotiate through varied terrain with a daypack.
- Be able to hike in conditions that may include, but are not limited to, rough, rugged, uneven steep and sloping terrain; human made and animal made trails; rocky terrain; ascending, descending or traversing slopes covered in rocks or vegetation. Any and all travel can occur during periods of inclement weather.
- Be able to travel distances that can range from less than one mile to more than nine miles in one day.
- Be able to hike for durations that can range from less than one hour to more than 7 hours in one day.
- Have average strength and endurance and basic balance and agility to safely travel through such terrain with a daypack.
- Be able to stay alert and to focus for several hours at a time while traveling.

Community Service Projects

- Be open and willing to interact with new and unfamiliar cultures.
- Be able to quickly gain understanding of expectations surrounding a service project and think of new/alternative means of reaching them.
- Adapt to changing conditions and circumstances during a project. Maintain an objective-oriented and positive attitude and be able to motivate your peers to do the same
- Engage in service learning projects (for example: building, digging, lifting, painting, construction and clean-up), for 6-8 hours per day with tools such as shovels, rakes and axes.
- Possess the strength, fitness, balance and agility to accomplish the above tasks.