

# EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BEING AN "ALTERNATE" IN THE CSU INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

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## **WHY DOES THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS (OIP) NAME STUDENTS TO BE "ALTERNATES?"**

Sometimes, there are more qualified applicants than OIP can admit. In a competitive situation, students who exceed the minimum qualifications may be selected over students who only meet the minimum qualifications.

Because we want to send as many students abroad as possible, OIP names some students to be "alternates." "Alternates" are fully qualified students, yet there is not enough space to fully admit them to the program. We know from experience that some students who are admitted decide to withdraw prior to departure for one reason or another. When a place becomes available, we give another student the opportunity to participate. Therefore, OIP names some students as "alternates." If an admitted student withdraws and if OIP is able, we will add an "alternate" as a regular participant.

You should rest assured that as an "alternate" you are a fully qualified student in the eyes of OIP. Unfortunately, sometimes there just isn't enough space for every qualified applicant. If OIP is able to admit you, you will be notified in writing.

## **WHAT IS AN "ALTERNATE" EXPECTED TO DO?**

You must prepare for participation in the same manner as regular participants, meeting all deadlines and accomplishing all required tasks so that you will be prepared should a regular participant withdraw from the program. (Details regarding paperwork and payments will be provided in the Participant Guide, which you will receive shortly.)

## **WHEN WILL OIP DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT I WILL BECOME A REGULAR PARTICIPANT?**

As stated above, if a regular participant withdraws, and space is available for another student, OIP will change one student's status from "alternate" to regular participant. Students will always be notified in writing if their status changes.

Our experience has been that if a regular participant is not certain about his or her participation, he/she will withdraw around the OIP payment deadline (May 15 for academic-year programs; November 15 for Australia, New Zealand and South Africa). Another event that may cause a regular participant to withdraw is the deadline date for a refund of the program deposit (June 15 for academic-year programs; December 15 for Australia, New Zealand and South Africa). If any changes are made, you will be notified in writing by OIP by approximately July 1 (January 1 for Australia/New Zealand/South Africa). *(Of course earlier for programs with start dates in June.)* Please note that

experience has shown that most regular participants who have made full payment to OIP are committed and are unlikely to withdraw after the refund deadline of June 15 (December 15 for Australia/New Zealand/ South Africa).

Of course, the above dates are given to you only to show you what the trend has been. There is no guarantee that OIP will be able to notify you of any changes by those dates. The Office of International Programs will allow "alternates" to continue to wait for an opening up until a reasonable amount of time before the program start date. Finally, if we are unable to admit you, OIP will notify all "alternates" in writing.

## **DO I HAVE TO MAKE PAYMENTS AS AN "ALTERNATE?" AND IF I AM NOT SELECTED, WILL I GET A REFUND?**

Yes, "alternates" must make the regular payments, just as regular participants do. Of course, if you are not selected to go abroad you will be fully refunded. Payment information will be provided in the Participant Guide, which you will receive shortly.

## **IF THERE ARE SEVERAL "ALTERNATES," HOW DOES OIP DECIDE WHICH "ALTERNATE" TO CHOOSE IF A SPACE BECOMES AVAILABLE?**

If a place becomes available, OIP reviews the files of all "alternates" and chooses the most qualified student. This includes such things as academic preparation, GPA, and language preparation (where applicable).

Your preparation for participation, which includes the paperwork and payments required of regular participants, also plays a role in showing OIP your commitment to participate in the program. "Alternates" who follow instructions and who complete and submit paperwork and payments by the deadlines indicated might have an edge over "alternates" who do not. (Details will be provided in the Participant Guide, which you will receive shortly.)

## **IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO CHANGE MY STATUS AS AN "ALTERNATE?"**

No. You already meet all program requirements. There is nothing missing in your IP application. As an "alternate" be sure to meet all deadlines by submitting all paperwork required of participants so that you will be prepared should a regular participant withdraw from the program.

## **MAY I APPEAL MY STATUS?**

No. The appeal process is only for students who have been denied a place in the program because the committee did not feel they could be admitted at this time. As an "alternate," the committee has confirmed that you are qualified and therefore you may not appeal.