**Study Away Decision Matrix Tool Example**

A decision matrix can help you to analyze which study away site(s) may be most suited to you.

It will not influence your chances of being accepted to a study away site.

***EXAMPLE ONLY***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Fall 2016 Sites I am considering** | | **Easiest for me to get Visa** | **Has the most classes that I need to make good progress towards my degree.** | **Lowest Budget for Living Expenses** | **Greatest chance of getting a for-credit internship.** | **Most exciting city to me** | **TOTAL** |
| *In each column, RANK the sites according to the criterion in that column. Give the highest ranking (“6”) to the best site for the criterion. Use each number ranking only once in each column. If two sites are about the same in one area, you can give them the average of the next two rank numbers.* | | | | |
| 1 | Abu Dhabi |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | Accra |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | Buenos Aires |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | London |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | New York |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6 | Washington, DC |  |  |  |  |  |  |

*TIPS*

* **Create your own criteria that make sense for you.**
* **Make separate grids for fall 2016 and spring 2017** as the conditions may differ, especially for visas and courses offered.
* **Weigh the criterion** that you wish to carry more influence. All of the ranks under that criterion would then be multiplied by the chosen weight. For example, if you wish to put more weight on “Budget”, you can choose a weight (like “2”) to multiply all the ranks by.
* **If two or more sites tie for the highest score in the end**, you could try one of these methods: introduce an additional criterion, go back and weigh one or more criteria, or eliminate all the other sites and make a matrix just between the tied sites.