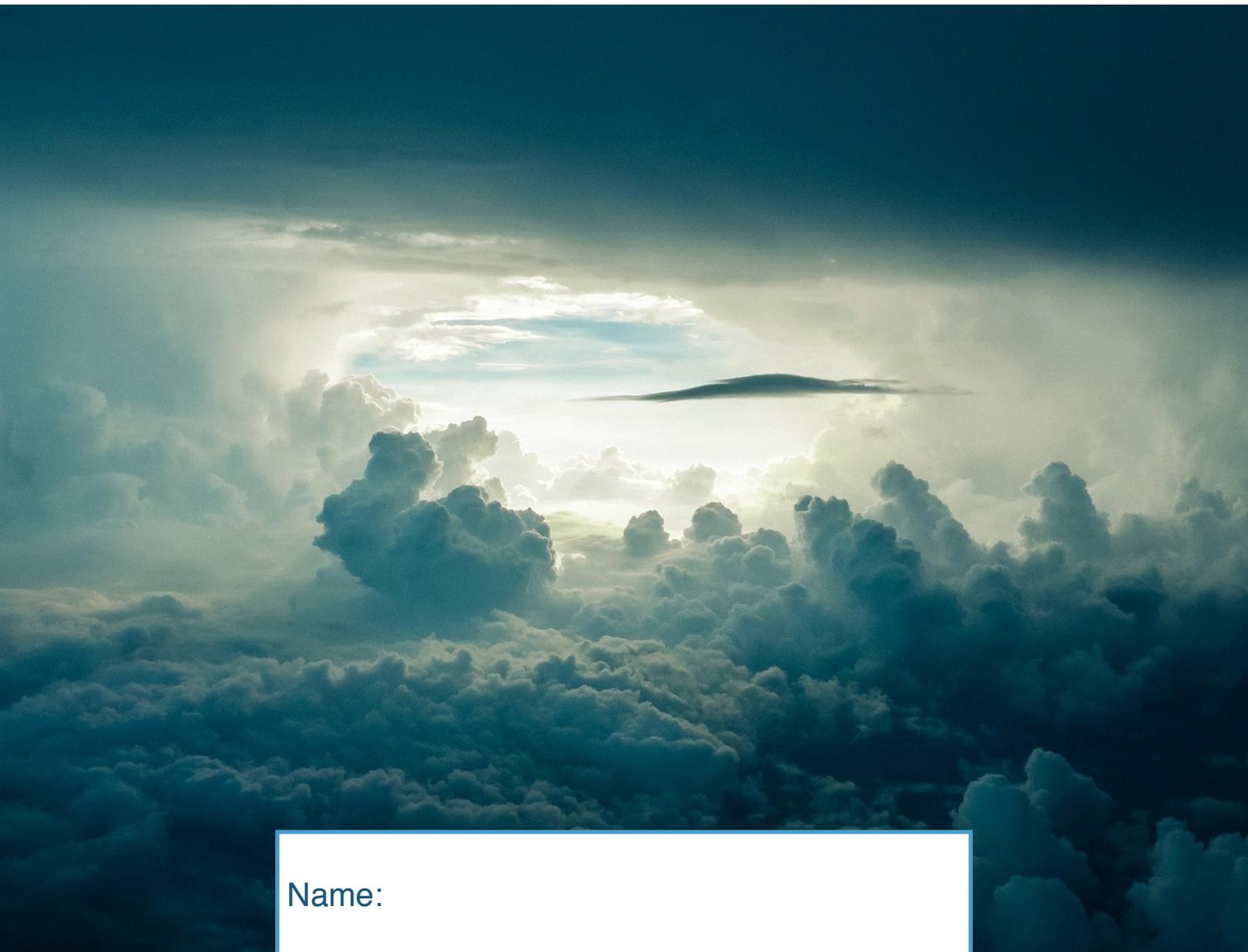# STUDY ABROAD BLOG

Name:

Blog URL:

PAID BLOG PLATFORMS

WordPress.org

WordPress is the most popular content management system. It allows a lot of flexibility, but also isn't as easy to manage. You do it all on your own, which is a double edge sword. You need to basically do every thing on your own. However, if you want a professional site and intend on keeping the site running when you get back, I'd highly encourage WordPress. It's completely your property and under your control.

SquareSpace

SquareSpace is a lot more limiting then WordPress, but it's also easier because of that. They also offer excellent customer service. Their installations work well and have all been tested by the SquareSpace team. WordPress is a lot more independent, but with a lot more flexibility. Both are good options, it just depends what you're looking for.

FREE BLOG PLATFORMS

Blogger

Blogger is hosted by Google, and it's free. Thanks to Google, it's very secure and every easy to use. However, it's also very limiting. There's a finite amount of options for the website. You can't design your layout or your own look, you have to choose from the options that they provide for you. You don't have complete ownership over your sight and also won't have a unique domain name.

WordPress.com

WordPress is similar to Blogger. It's an easy to use blogging platform, but it's very limiting to your options. It also is free initially, but the more you want to customize it, the more expensive it becomes. For example, you won't get your own domain name without paying for it. So, this is a good option if you're looking for a very basic blog and don't mind that you don't have complete ownership.

MY BLOG CHECKLIST

- ☐ Decide which blog hosting platform you want to use

- ☐ Choose a domain name and register it

- ☐ Sign up for the platform and download

- ☐ Customize her theme and site
    - ☐ Choose your main colors and stick with them
    - ☐ Choose your main fonts and stick with them

- ☐ Make categories that your posts will fall into

- ☐ Make an 'about' page
    - ☐ Your name, college, and year
    - ☐ Your study abroad program, location, and semester
    - ☐ A solid pitch of your blog's purpose
    - ☐ Point out why people should read it

- ☐ If site is self hosted, make sure it's automatically backed up!
- ☐ Write my first post! My ideas, goals, and predictions

- ☐ Send my url out to friends and family!