Tips for Maximizing your Language Learning Experience on Study Away

★ Monitor your motivation:
- Identify why you want to learn the language and remind yourself along the way.
- Set SMART goals: **Specific**, **Measurable**, **Attainable**, **Relevant**, and **Time-Based**
- Overcome “motivational baggage”: ex: self-confidence, others’ perception, fear of failure, etc.

★ Recognize and cope with “language fatigue”:
- Celebrate your accomplishments along the way.
- Prepare to be challenged, frustrated, and tired; then find ways to overcome these feelings.
- Allow yourself the language or mental break that is right for you, then get going again!

★ Be daring! Make mistakes! Have fun with your learning!

Below are tips for the different areas of language learning:

- **Listening**
  - **Increase exposure**: watch tv (especially soap operas) and movies, listen to the radio, listen to music, eavesdrop on conversations, ask questions (even if you think you know the answer), ...
  - **Avoid taking comprehension!** Learn culturally appropriate ways to indicate you are not following, ask the speaker to slow their speech, or explain in another way.
  - Focus on your active listening skills: paraphrase, ask clarifying questions, take notes on what you didn’t understand clarify when appropriate.

- **Learning Vocabulary**
  - **Increase exposure**: keep a list or make flashcards for new words, ask native speakers to teach you synonyms of words you use frequently and how they vary in use, set a goal (ex: 10 new words a day), make note of when you lack the vocabulary you wish to have- be sure to look up or ask, ...

- **Speaking to Communicate**
  - **Increase exposure**: mimic native speakers, make small talk on the bus or in other similar opportunities, seek out a native-speaking conversation partner, make language commitment with fellow English-speakers, push yourself to speak up in class, use non-verbals, seek new ways to say the same thing, ask those you’re comfortable with to correct you, ...

- **Reading for Comprehension**
  - **Increase Exposure**: read local news sources, ask language instructor to suggest novels appropriate to your level, watch a movie or show with subtitles in target language …. Use both bilingual and monolingual dictionaries sparingly- try to work through context first.

- **Writing**
  - **Increase exposure**: keep a journal in the target language; email, text, write to others in target language, ...
  - Seek a native speaker to edit and give feedback; maybe reciprocate if they have English language needs.

- **Cultural Context**
  - Remember that direct translation does not always work; seek to understand the cultural context of language.
  - Common scenarios to seek cultural guidance: giving/receiving compliments, making refusals, thanking, making requests, making complaints, giving advice, greetings, making apologies, ...