

## Study Abroad Faculty Led Program Development

There are several factors that need to be considered in the development of Parkside study abroad programs.

- **Academic Fit**

Coursework being proposed must meet the academic needs of a wide group of students and should offer an opportunity to fulfill direct degree requirements. If the program cannot attract sufficient numbers, the program will be cancelled.

In addition, the program cannot conflict with similar Parkside study abroad offerings as this could jeopardize the viability of both programs.

- **Safety**

Study abroad program developers must consult the US State Department travel webpages to determine the safety level of the site location. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages.html> . Safety ratings of Level 3 or 4 will not be considered. All risk factors should be discussed and addressed.

In addition, host country nationals should be integral to the program. If an emergency arises, it is imperative that there are local professionals knowledgeable about local resources to effectively deal with the issue.

- **Affordability**

A budget will be developed for every faculty-led international program (FLIP) by the faculty leaders and the Study Abroad Office. At a minimum, line items will include:

- Faculty remuneration and fringe benefits
- Airfare and transport of students
- Airfare and transport of accompanying faculty
- Lodging of students & faculty
- Faculty per diem and health insurance
- Faculty visa costs (if applicable)
- Local partner program fees
- Study abroad fees (\$150) and study abroad insurance is also compulsory.

As an example, program developers should consider that a study abroad program with one faculty leader will most likely amount to a minimum student fee of \$3600 for a 10 day program (varies dependent upon location and many other factors).

Faculty leaders will determine a minimum number of students needed to make the program “go”. If that number isn’t met, the program will be cancelled.

**Financial Aid:** Faculty leaders should know that while Federal/State financial aid resources can often apply to study abroad programs, the students’ annual award levels do not increase to meet these additional costs. An exception to this is the Wisconsin Study Abroad grant which offers residents with a

GPA of 2.5 and a FAFSA demonstration of need, the possibility of a grant ranging from \$500-\$1000 for a short-term program. Please note that usage of all summer financial aid requires a 6-credit minimum.

- **Stability of Program Structure**

Covid has taught us many lessons. Study abroad programs cannot be built upon the leadership, knowledge and expertise of one particular faculty member. This puts Parkside and Parkside students in a precarious situation in the event of a personal or family emergency of a faculty leader.

The Parkside Study Abroad Advisory Committee therefore requires that all programs have a local university or partner organization that administers a pre-structured program. This has many benefits:

- Programs are taught and administered by locals that are experts of the topic and how it fits into the local culture. This provides a truly immersive cultural experience.
- Students are integrated into the local community, making stronger connections.
- Frees the faculty leader from arranging logistics, direct teaching and financial management allowing them to better support student needs.
- If a student has an emergency, the faculty leader is available to assist and the program can continue on without interruption.

All over the world local universities are implementing programs for incoming international students. Many invite visiting professors to co-teach student groups alongside them. Here are some program examples:

Finally, UW Parkside study abroad program staffing has been significantly affected by university financial cutbacks.