

**INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
FINAL REPORT
2012-2013**

Submitted by Co-Chairs Diane Kelley and Peter Wimberger

The members of the committee this year were: Phillip Brenfleck (student), Haile Canton (student), Lisa Ferrari (Associate Dean's office), Matt Ingalls, Michael Johnson, Diane Kelley, Allyson Lindsley (International Programs), Donn Marshall (Associate Dean of Students), John McCuistion, Stephanie Noss (International Programs), Roy Robinson (International Programs), Tanya Stambuk, Matt Warning, Peter Wimberger

Thanks to the Committee members for their hard work.

According to the Faculty Bylaws, the International Education Committee has the following responsibilities:

1. Establish criteria and assessment procedures for international education programs.
2. Review and approve new and existing international education programs and program proposals, including programs led by University faculty.
3. Assist the Office of International Programs in selecting students for study abroad.
4. Represent the interests of the Faculty in international education.
5. Such other duties as may be assigned to it.

Additionally, the Senate charged the IEC with the following for 2012-2013:

1. Work with the Office of Institutional Research to revise a Study Abroad Survey to gauge the learning process and learning outcomes with particular attention to academic rigor and writing across the curriculum that occur during study abroad programs as well as gather additional information related to international programs.
2. Continue to work with faculty to encourage the integration of study abroad experiences into on-campus classes and research symposia, and work with the SLC and Dean of Students to encourage integration of study abroad experiences into co-curricular activities.
3. Finalize and adopt criteria for proposing UPS Short Term Faculty Led Programs.
4. Educate faculty regarding financial aid, policies, and procedures affiliated with study abroad programs.
5. Work with Curriculum Committee to design a process to approve faculty taught study abroad courses that fulfill core requirements.

The following pages discuss how the IEC addressed charges #2 and 3 in the Bylaws, as well as #1-5 in the charges from the Senate. The Bylaws charges #1, 4 and 5 are addressed in our other committee work.

BYLAWS CHARGE #2: Review and approve new and existing international education programs and program proposals, including programs led by University faculty.

This academic year, study abroad programs in the following countries were reviewed: China, Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, Japan and India.

As a result of our reviews, the following programs were eliminated from or added to (due to student or faculty petitions) our list of accepted study abroad programs:

PROGRAMS ELIMINATED:

New Zealand

- Cut University of Auckland

Australia

- Cut IFSA-Butler James Cook University (Both locations); IES University of Melbourne; IFSA-Butler University of Western Australia; IFSA-Butler Macquarie University; IFSA- Butler Tasmania (eliminated by Butler)

Japan

- Cut Tokyo International Christian

Scotland

- Cut Glasgow and Aberdeen (but we added Saint Andrews)

Spain

- We are removing the advanced Spanish option for URI in Salamanca, but keeping the beginning option of this program

NEW PROGRAMS APPROVED:

Argentina

- Approved Summer Language and Culture program at the University of Buenos Aires through IFSA-Butler

Iceland CELL

- Provisionally approved so 2 students can apply to participate in the program

Spain

- Approved the Alcalingua Summer Internship Program (Alcalá)
- Approved the Valladolid Spring and Summer Program

Scotland

- Approved University of St. Andrews, but removed Glasgow and Aberdeen from the approved program list

Various Locations

- Approved SIT Health and Community: Globalization, Culture and Care

Early in Fall semester, the committee will address the program proposals for the following three new programs, all proposed by faculty:

SIT Balkans - http://www.sit.edu/studyabroad/ssa_hrr.cfm
IES Turkey - <http://www.iesabroad.org/study-abroad/turkey>
CIEE Thailand - <http://www.ciee.org/study-abroad/thailand/khon-kaen/development-globalization/>

Kathleen Campbell will review these programs over the summer and forward her recommendation to the committee; there has been a delay on the approval process of these three programs due to Optimize. These proposals should be addressed early in the fall so that, if they are approved, they are on the list of approved programs for students considering applying for study abroad.

BYLAWS CHARGE #3: Assist the Office of International Programs in selecting students for study abroad.

This was a very time-consuming aspect of our work this year, especially at the beginning of the spring semester. In the fall semester, the Office of International Programs was informed that the fixed budget for study abroad would be strictly enforced. As a result, and very quickly, the IEC and OIP finalized the criteria and application process. Students were required to write two essays and were chosen based on the following criteria:

1. Good academic and judicial standing (not on probation)
2. Students meet program requirements.
3. Highest Priority: Students going on Puget Sound sponsored programs (e.g. Dijon, Oaxaca) and students in majors that require study abroad. Students in language immersion programs also will get higher priority.
4. No Faculty Concerns
5. Essays
6. Students may be limited to a single program (semester or year) taken on a case by case basis
7. Preference to rising seniors who have not previously studied abroad, then rising juniors, then sophomores
8. GPA will be considered. Students with below a 3.0 GPA may have lower priority.

The newly implemented process had predictable wrinkles. In response to faculty concerns an Application Working Group was formed including faculty from multiple disciplines and met twice to revise the application process. All students will be required to write an essay; the essay for students in programs that require study abroad will be different for those in other majors. Students with a GPA below 3.0 will be required to answer a second question.

IEC members helped in the selection process. Ultimately 19 students were either denied or reduced from 2 semesters to 1 semester in order to remain within budget; most of the denied students did not meet the minimum requirements of the programs to which they

applied. There has already been enough attrition that the study abroad program will be within budget. This budget surplus leads to the question (see proposed charges below), can all or part of this budget surplus be rolled over as is done with tuition benefits?

SENATE CHARGE #1: Work with the Office of Institutional Research to revise a Study Abroad Survey to gauge the learning process and learning outcomes with particular attention to academic rigor and writing across the curriculum that occur during study abroad programs as well as gather additional information related to international programs.

The Committee met with representatives of the OIR to look at the questions and results from last year's surveys. Although the NSSE results suggest that students on study abroad more often examine the strengths and weakness of their views, more often try to better understand someone else's point of view from the other's person's perspective, and report that they learned something that changed the way they think about the world, there is no way to tell from these results whether study abroad led to these differences or if the group that studies abroad is different from the group that does not study abroad. Other data show that the two groups are different in multiple ways. The Committee didn't understand the rationale for focusing on writing or academic rigor as those are not the primary reasons or expected outcomes from a study abroad experience. The Committee respectfully requests a rigorous definition of academic rigor from the Senate. The NSSE results show no difference in self-reported writing ability between study abroad and non-study abroad students. Last year's exit survey show self-reported increased abilities to: speak and understand foreign languages, placing current problems in historical, cultural, or philosophical perspective, gaining familiarity with a variety of academic fields, understanding interrelationships among various fields of knowledge and better understanding moral and ethical issues. To really understand the impact of study abroad on students would require a well-constructed assessment with pre- and post-evaluation. A few studies like this have been done that show the value of study abroad. The Committee was not convinced that it was worth our time and money to undertake this kind of assessment without a clear need for answers to specific questions.

SENATE CHARGE #2: Continue to work with faculty to encourage the integration of study abroad experiences into on-campus classes and research symposia, and work with the SLC and Dean of Students to encourage integration of study abroad experiences into co-curricular activities.

In the spring semester, a subcommittee was formed specifically to address the re-integration of returning study abroad students back into campus life. The subcommittee identified two goals: to help students re-adjust to campus life and also to provide a forum for research presentations that would be held simultaneously with the Study Abroad Fair on September 24. It was ultimately decided that OIP would arrange for a "Welcome Back" event at the beginning of September to which faculty of returning abroad students will be invited. This event will also be used as a forum to welcome students to brown-bag lunches and meetings to discuss adjustment issues, highlighting abroad experiences on a resume, etc. Last year, OIP attempted the "informational" part of the welcome-back activities, but they were poorly attended. It is our

hope that the presence of faculty and good food in a festive environment will improve the success of this event.

In order to highlight student academics and research while on study abroad, we explored the possibility of a poster / photo montage session to be held contemporaneously with the Study Abroad Fair in the SUB. However, it was decided that the first three weeks of the semester were insufficient to identify students willing to participate and get them to do so. Instead, we recommend requiring such a presentation for students who go abroad on programs with significant research components (such as SIT programs) in future years, so that they may be made aware of this requirement before they leave for study abroad.

We were not able to address all parts of this charge and therefore are including it on the list of proposed charges for next year.

SENATE CHARGE #3: Finalize and adopt criteria for proposing UPS Short Term Faculty Led Programs.

The Committee discussed different models for Short Term Study Abroad, including summer courses and the semester/trip model currently used in a couple of our classes. The greatest remaining obstacle to revising the Short-term Study Abroad Handbook for Faculty (available online) is establishing a viable financial model for summer study abroad. The main question is how much of a student's tuition should directly subsidize their program costs. If students have to pay for their program costs, in addition to full tuition, it is unlikely that many students would opt to attend our programs since there are many less expensive programs. Many other institutions heavily subsidize their own summer study abroad programs.

SENATE CHARGE #4: Educate faculty regarding financial aid, policies, and procedures affiliated with study abroad programs.

The Committee will send out a short primer on financial aid, policies, deadlines and procedure prior to advising next fall. If there is interest, we will organize a session for faculty to explain the current policies and procedures.

SENATE CHARGE #5: Work with Curriculum Committee to design a process to approve faculty taught study abroad courses that fulfill core requirements.

We discussed this with the Curriculum Committee. The IEC approves study abroad programs. Specific Puget Sound courses are approved by the Curriculum Committee.

WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING CHARGES FOR 2013-2014:

1. Review the current list of study abroad programs and eliminate expensive programs that do not provide something distinctive (i.e. language, discipline or geography).
2. Work with Dean Bartanen and FVP Mondou to consider models for rolling over some or all surplus study abroad funds. These funds could provide a buffer to allow more students to study abroad in years of high demand and be used to fund the development of more Puget Sound short-term study away programs.
3. Once the financial model is resolved, revise the short-term study abroad guide for faculty and develop a clear template for proposing, organizing and leading short-term study abroad programs.
4. Work with the Office of Institutional Research to evaluate the questions addressing study abroad that are currently on sophomore and senior surveys, as well as the returning questionnaire for study abroad students. The committee should attempt to identify clear questions for which the response will be useful to the institution.
5. Continue to work with faculty to encourage the integration of study abroad experiences into on-campus classes and research symposia, and work with the SLC and Dean of Students to encourage integration of study abroad experiences into co-curricular activities.