

ASU Study Abroad Generation Study Abroad Commitment (Present-2019)

Background on the Initiative

According to the Open Doors Report on International and Educational Exchange, 289,408 American college students studied abroad for academic credit in 2012/2013. **While that may be a large number, it in fact represents less than 10% of the millions of students graduating with associates or baccalaureate degrees each year in the U.S.**

Generation Study Abroad seeks to address this shortfall by bringing employers, governments, associations, and others together to build on current best practices and find new ways to extend study abroad opportunities to tens of thousands of college students for whom traditional study abroad programs aren't working.

Generation Study Abroad is a five-year initiative of the Institute of International Education (IIE) to mobilize resources and commitments with the goal of doubling the number of U.S. students studying abroad by the end of the decade.

The Challenge

Double the number of study abroad participants by the end of the decade. In order to accomplish this, the education community will need to join together to act swiftly and decisively. In addition to the higher education community, IIE is seeking the support of high school teachers, study abroad alumni and students, as well as private sector partners, governments, and educational organizations who will be able to contribute scholarships and resources.

ASU's Commitment to the Challenge

According to Dr. Robert E. Page, Jr., University Provost, "ASU has joined the Generation Study Abroad movement because we are committed to the concept of global engagement and see the value of study abroad for our student population as it relates to advancing the mission. ASU believes in graduating global citizens and study abroad is one distinct way that encourages intercultural growth and competency development relevant both globally and to our local community."

For the 2018/2019 academic year, ASU's goal is to send over 2,500 students abroad on faculty directed, exchange and partnership programs. Our focus on growth is not just for the sake of numbers; we seek to increase the number of ASU students studying abroad because of the long-term impact the experience has on the participants and the outcomes on their lives. With this goal in mind, we are focusing on:

- Curriculum Integration;
- Faculty Advisory Committee;
- Study Abroad Funding;
- Training.

Curriculum Integration

ASU has demonstrated a commitment to outlining clear degree expectations and increasing our four-year graduation rate through developing innovative technology tools such as eAdvisor and the Transfer Credit Guide. Resources are now being turned to connecting these tools, recognized across higher education for their effectiveness, to helping students integrate study abroad to their academic goals, allowing them to stay on track for a four-year graduation in their chosen field of study.

Faculty Advisory Committee

We believe that one of the most effective methods to reach students is through their faculty; names and faces they already trust. Therefore, ASU created a Study Abroad Faculty Advisory Committee, featuring key leadership from the varying ASU campuses. The goal of the committee is to connect and integrate study abroad to the missions of all colleges and schools at ASU, provide advisement on curricular and policy decisions, and develop international leaders outside of the traditional structure.

Study Abroad Funding

With a student population that relies heavily on federal and local financial aid and scholarship funding, we recognize that funding an international experience can be a great hurdle for ASU students. ASU commits to exploring *Planning Scholarships* which would be awarded to first generation freshmen for use within a two- to three-year timeframe. These scholarships would allow students to start planning for study abroad early in their academic career, knowing they have a baseline of financial assistance.

Training

ASU has committed resources to developing a central online training resource for all our 250+ academic advisors across 18 colleges and schools. Study abroad will be one of those required modules. A committee made up of both study abroad and academic advisors met to revise and develop new training materials. In addition, ASU will sponsor faculty members to attend specific conferences to receive additional training on intercultural competency development. Phase 2 of this project is to expand our training materials to include sessions for faculty not taking students abroad on how to infuse intercultural and global competency development into home campus teaching.