

IIE Generation Study Abroad Commitment of the University of Colorado at Boulder

February 14, 2014

The University of Colorado at Boulder (CU-Boulder) is proud to join the Institute of International Education's Generation Study Abroad initiative to double the number of U.S. students studying abroad by the end of the decade.

By the end of the current decade, Study Abroad Programs in the Office of International Education pledges to double the number of CU-Boulder students who have an international educational experience by the time they graduate.

Recognizing that CU-Boulder is in a unique position to promote the state of Colorado as a global crossroads of ideas and discovery, in his 2009 State of the Campus address, Chancellor DiStefano gave CU-Boulder an ambitious goal: to increase the number of students who participate in study abroad to half of the total undergraduate population. This goal is a part of the Flagship 2030 strategic plan for the university. The Office of International Education has begun working toward this goal in three main ways: working with academic units to integrate study abroad into the curriculum, strategically expanding short-term faculty-led programs, and seeking a significant increase in scholarship funds for education abroad programs.

To reach the ambitious goal of doubling the number of CU-Boulder students who have an education abroad experience by the end of the decade, Study Abroad Programs pledges to take the following actions:

- Increase access to study abroad programs for traditionally underrepresented populations
- Support and encourage academic units across campus as they develop their own international education goals and initiatives
- Engage students in international education early in their academic career
- Increase the visibility and success of all international education opportunities, which include study abroad programs, and international service learning, internships, and research
- Make the commitment in this pledge the cornerstone of all of SAP's planning strategies



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III Generation Study Abroad Action Plan of the University of Colorado at Boulder

To double the number of students having an international educational experience by the time they graduate at CU-Boulder, Study Abroad Programs (SAP) in the Office of International Education (OIE) pledges to take five concrete courses of action.

1. Increase access to study abroad programs for traditionally underrepresented populations

To increase the number of students who study abroad, we recognize that we need to increase access for students traditionally underrepresented: students not studying in liberal arts fields, students who struggle with their academic performance, and diverse students.

First, we will work with departments and colleges to develop better curriculum integration and more appropriate international programming options for students who have degrees with little flexibility and who would otherwise not be able to spend a semester abroad. By more actively engaging faculty and academic advisers across campus, we will be able to offer international programs that take into consideration the restrictions placed on students in these degree tracks.

Second, we will expand our approved programs to offer more international for-credit research and internship opportunities, particularly for business, STEM and engineering students. Students in these majors often study abroad in the summer months so as not to miss important sequential courses, but also need resume-building opportunities in the summer. An international internship or research project will help these students engage with like-minded professionals in foreign cultures and help them to develop a professional network that will last a lifetime.

Third, we will expand our approved programs to offer options for students who are struggling academically. Many of our current programs have a minimum GPA of 3.0 or 2.75, and this can be a true barrier for some students. We will identify existing programs and add new programs as needed for students with GPAs of 2.0 or higher. In addition, we will also explore developing a faculty-lead program specifically for students on academic probation – a bounce-back program designed to reengage struggling students.

Finally, we will increase access to study abroad for diverse students, including students of color, first-generation college students, and students with high financial need. In order to help these students make study abroad a reality, we will work to find grants to fund pre-program costs, such as passport application fees, that serve as an initial barrier for many students. Additionally, we will work to develop a high-touch program, based on a cohort model, which encourages formation of a community, engagement of family and support persons, and provides targeted pre-application information and advising.

2. Support and encourage academic units across campus as they develop their own international education goals and initiatives

Because of CU-Boulder's commitment to further internationalize our campus in our Flagship 2030 strategic plan, many of the colleges, schools and departments have or plan to develop their own international initiatives. SAP will work closely with these academic units to help them develop successful, safe and academically-engaging programs. The Leeds School of Business

aspires to have 100% of their undergraduates have an international experience prior to graduation. The Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering has set a goal of having 60% of students have an international experience prior to graduation. SAP will further engage these units, as well as other departments and schools who have expressed interest, to support programming that leverage their academic expertise and our international programming competence. Furthermore, we will actively assist faculty members and academic units who have an interest in internationalizing their curriculum, but who lack the staff or the experience to do so.

3. Engaging students in international education early in their academic career

While students typically study abroad their junior or senior year, there is no reason that students shouldn't matriculate with a plan for internationalizing their education. Many students begin their degree program expressing interest in study abroad, but never complete the plan to do so. By encouraging students to begin asking themselves "where should I study abroad" as soon as they arrive on campus, SAP will work to engage students much earlier in their academic career and break down perceived barriers to studying abroad. This includes increased outreach to prospective students, to freshmen who have expressed an interest in international education, and to parents of new students.

OIE will support the newly developed First Year Global Experience (FGX) in the Leeds School of Business. First year students in Business will take an Introduction to Global Business course in the spring semester which includes a faculty-led international trip abroad. OIE will support other Global Experiences for students in development in the School of Business, including programs offered abroad for students in the Business Residential Academic Program (RAP) and for Leeds Scholars.

4. Increase the visibility and success of other international education opportunities

Non-credit international experiences, such as internship/work experience, volunteer and mission work, and professional development activities, are valuable experiences that serve to help internationalize individual students as well as the CU-Boulder campus. In order to increase the success of these programs for our students, we will work to understand all of the various international programs run by faculty members, academic units, student services groups, student-run organizations, and other on-campus groups, including registering them with SAP. We will work with these groups to ensure the experiences students have on such trips are valuable international experience and that appropriate health and safety planning has taken place, according to best practices and standards.

5. Make the commitment in this pledge the cornerstone of all of SAP's planning strategies

The four action items detailed above are ambitious, and to be successful in achieving them SAP will need extra commitment and new ideas from all members of our staff. To reach the goal of doubling participation in international education in the next five years, SAP will need to develop clear incremental benchmarking goals and a detailed plan of action items. We will draft a new 5-year strategic plan in May 2014 and we will use this commitment and the above-outlined four action items to guide our planning.