

iCAP Team Recommendation

Name of iCAP Team: Education

iCAP Team chair(s): Luis Rodriguez

Date submitted to iWG:

Recommendation title: Accounting for Sustainability in Study Abroad

For internal use only: Date reviewed by iCAP Working Group:

Specific actions/policy recommendation: Include sustainability learning outcomes into study abroad preparation courses. The team recommends beginning with LAS 291/292 and expansion to other college programs once this trial program is implemented and reviewed. Further students should be required to exercise that learning by participating in sustainability activities focused on offsetting their environmental footprint from their study-abroad experience. Examples could include: how many trees would need to be planted to offset emissions of the study abroad trip and then participate in the planting of trees in the states or the country where the student is traveling to; developing a short synopsis of carbon markets and purchase of carbon offsets for travel; analyzing the impact of international waste disposal and participating in a trash pickup or touring of the waste transfer station. Faculty and staff that intend to travel with these trips should be provided a flyer containing a distillation of this information and a short training video should be incorporated into the already mandatory training meetings (e.g. Program Leader Safety and Best Practices Workshop). The flyer and training video could be developed from the same resources used for developing the study abroad course.

Suggested unit/department to address implementation: LAS International Programs

Rationale for recommendation: Kate Abney, Associate Director of Intercultural and Global Learning in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, approached the Education iCAP team with a need to incorporate sustainability learning into LAS 291/292 (a course that prepares students for studying abroad). The sustainability learning outcomes would focus on the impact of all forms of travel, as well as the impact of any activities/events that would occur during the trip. Beyond education, Kate expressed a desire to incorporate some activity for mitigation of environmental impact either before, during, or after travel.





Connection to iCAP goals: 3.5 Offset Air Travel Emissions

Perceived challenges: Expansion into all other study abroad offices (that's why we are starting with one). Limitations of expertise to context specific sustainability issues.

Anticipated timeline of implementation: Summer and Fall of 2022

Anticipated budget (identify if cost is up-front or continuous): Kate Abney has received partial-to-full funding for this recommendation through iSEE's Levenick Teaching Fellows grant. However, the full scope of the recommendation has not been realized and there may be additional budget shortfalls that need to be considered.

Individual comments are required from each SWATeam member (one or two sentences):

Team Member Name	Team Member's Comments
Luis Rodriguez 	Approved. Suggest that we should investigate providing outlets for students to implement the practices on campus or with partner campuses. Similarly their students would do the same when arriving here.
Eric Green 	Approved. No additional comments.
Anna-Maria Marshall	Approved. Agree with the comments that the students should apply the knowledge they acquire through this exercise to UIUC.
Anna Mehl 	I am in support of the proposal and the pilot implementation strategy discussed. The engagement in applied activities will benefit students through raising their awareness of environmental values.
Gretchen Forman 	Looks good. I think that exploring multiple ways to achieve the offset both here and abroad would be helpful. The explanation/training of goals/purpose for both faculty and staff will be important.
Jessica Nicholson	I approve. I think this is a great idea to increase student awareness of the environmental impact of their activities and help them develop applicable skills to implement sustainable practices in their everyday lives and careers.

Further explanation and background (can be supplied in an attachment):

Comments from consultation group (if any; these can be anonymous):