

iWG Assessment

iCAP Team Recommendation Ref #: Edu006 Sustainability in Study Abroad

Date of iWG Assessment Started: 9/9/22

Assessment Transmitted: Returned 9/9/22

iWG Recommendation:

The Education iCAP Team should clarify what the specific actions are needed for this recommendation, in relationship to the LAS 291/292 class. We understand Kate teaches this class and is moving forward at this time, so what specifically would you like to see happen elsewhere?

We also would like to know more about the which aspects of sustainability are you interested in having developed – is it carbon cost of travel or carbon emissions associated with travel. Which groups of study abroad are you focused on (at this time)? For example are you talking about students who are living abroad for a semester/year (residential study abroad), or students who are taking a single course with a one-week or one-month excursion (faculty-led study abroad)?

The focus could also be about the carbon cost of travel, or it could be more of a deeper dive into sustainability issues and cultural perspectives in the area that is being visited. These are very different topics and require different approaches for integration.

Additionally, there are similar efforts occurring in other colleges, such as ACES study abroad. iSEE will help connect you to the efforts underway at ACES, to learn from each other and potentially collaborate.

iWG Routing Direction (Department name, iCAP Team, or Council): _____

Individual comments from each iWG member:

iWG Member Name	iWG Member's Comments
Jennifer Fraterrigo (iSEE)	
Morgan White (F&S)	
Jamie Singson (Representing Auxiliaries)	
Brian Bundren (Provost Office)	
Jim Brennan (Academic Senate)	
Sandy Yoo (System Office)	

Qu Kim (Representing College Facilities)	
Derek Fultz (Representing College Facilities)	
Lucy Nifong (Student Sustainability Committee)	
Danika Ford (Student Sustainability Leadership Council)	
Alexandra Gergova, Illinois Student Government Environmental Sustainability Committee	

Original iCAP Team 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.

iWG Assessment of budget and policy impacts (*check one*):

moderate budget and/or policy impact OR major budget and/or policy implications

iWG Routing Need (*check one*):

more detailed study OR transmit recommendation OR forward to Sustainability Council