Global education integral to IDEAS in Action curriculum

Carolina has one of the leading Study Abroad programs in the country, in part because we value the importance of a global education for our students. We know that the graduates of tomorrow will need a comprehensive understanding of our complex world whatever career path they choose. That’s why we made a global education an essential part of our IDEAS in Action curriculum and work to ensure that every student who wants to study abroad has the opportunity to do so. We’re proud of the team that provides excellent support for our students from the start of the application process until the students return home from their transformative experiences abroad.

Jim White,
Craver Family Dean,
College of Arts and Sciences

*Includes domestic programs, graduate students, students in the professional schools who study abroad through UNC Study Abroad Office, and non-UNC-CH students who study abroad through UNC Study Abroad Office. Does not include students who study abroad through other units on campus.
Leadership reflections

Last year, UNC’s Study Abroad Office helped more than 2,000 Tar Heels study abroad, setting new records for study abroad participation. I am grateful to Associate Dean Jason Kinnear and the entire Study Abroad team for their tireless work supporting UNC students and helping to deliver on the Global Guarantee. At Carolina, we provide a rich menu of opportunities for our students, faculty and staff to engage with the world. And when students choose to study abroad, they know they will be supported by top professionals in the education abroad field and by solid partners on the ground.

Barbara J. Stephenson, Vice Provost for Global Affairs & Chief Global Officer

Independent Undergraduate Education Abroad Activities

To further enhance risk management practices, a new policy was enacted in 2023 requiring undergraduate academically-focused international travel outside a study abroad program to be approved through a new centralized process administered by the College of Arts and Sciences through the Study Abroad Office (for all undergraduate students regardless of school or college).

Student Story: Héctor Aizpurúa, Jr.

For his undergraduate honors thesis, the Winston-Salem native traveled to Panama this past summer to gather source documents about the music and customs of the Panamanians who were forced from their land to create the canal — and lost their way of life in the process. Through writing about their music and culture, Aizpurúa hopes this group of people will not be forgotten. “One way to give somebody their spirit back is to talk about their music, their culture, and who they were, as opposed to just saying 40,000 people lost their homes and now they’re gone,” he explains.

Excerpt from https://endeavors.unc.edu/finding-his-research-rhythm/

Restructuring & Rebuilding the Study Abroad Team

In the Academic Year 2022-23, our team underwent a significant restructuring and rehiring period as we transitioned back to more normal operations following the pandemic. The resurgence of student participation to pre-pandemic levels was both exciting and challenging. To meet the increased demand, we embarked on a journey of rebuilding our team, guided by the vision of our Associate Dean. We adopted a dual organizational structure led by a Senior Director for Programs and Advising and a Senior Director for Business Operations. This restructuring was designed to foster close collaboration between the Senior Directors and their respective teams, promoting effective communication and simplifying the resolution of emerging issues. Our initial focus centered on rebuilding the advising and programs team, a crucial step in meeting the surging demand. With this foundation laid, we began to restructure and rebuild our operations team. This deliberate approach not only allowed us to address our immediate business requirements but also positions us for future growth and adaptability.

Faculty Health & Safety Training

In 2023, we developed and launched a comprehensive training program specifically tailored for faculty members leading programs abroad with the following goals:

- Build awareness about the risks associated with traveling and studying abroad
- Outline the program leader's role when it comes to risk management
- Introduce resources available to support faculty program directors and the program participants

UNC faculty and staff who lead study abroad programs help us provide the best opportunities possible for our students. The OVPGA and numerous campus partners worked together to develop a comprehensive, interactive training program for our faculty and staff program directors. This program prepares them to lead programs abroad in a manner that prioritizes the health, safety and security of our students, and reduces liability and risks to themselves, UNC and partner institutions.

Kim Priebe, Associate Director for Global Travel, Office of the Vice Provost for Global Affairs

The Study Abroad Office collaborated with partners from the OVPGA, Carolina Talent, Information Technology and units across campus to create the online Faculty Health and Safety training program. Because of this sizable team effort, we have a very useful tool that benefits all program directors.

Teamwork like this helps us provide safe opportunities to our students who study abroad.

Ken Nesbett, Program Director, Study Abroad Office

Senior Directors

Chrissie Greenberg
Finance & Operations

Christine Trinidad
Advising & Programs

STUDYABROAD.UNC.EDU
New Program Feature: Global Tech Experience

In summer 2023, the Study Abroad Office, in partnership with the Division of Digital and Lifelong Learning brought a new virtual global learning opportunity to students at UNC-Chapel Hill titled The Global Tech Experience (GTX). The program allows participants to gain academic credit and work experience while building skills in areas like data, coding and digital marketing. According to Jason Kinnear, Associate Dean for Study Abroad at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, "Helping students obtain real-world global experience within their college years is a key focus for our university. The innovative program created by Intel and Podium Education opens the door for more students to access these opportunities without the barriers to international travel."
Top 10 Departments for Participation by Major
1. Psychology & Neuroscience (241)
2. Media & Journalism (219)
3. Biology (211)
4. Economics (203)
5. Political Science (200)
7. Global Studies (122)
8. Computer Science (116)
9. Business Administration (114)
10. Exercise & Sport Science (84)

Includes double-majors

Top Destinations by Country
1. England (367)
2. Spain (259)
3. Italy (199)
4. United States (118)
5. France (96)
6. Denmark (93)
7. South Korea (86)
8. Ireland (82)
9. Ecuador (71)
10. Sweden (57)

*Virtual participation ranked 4th with 161 participants.

Top 5 Sending Countries
1. Singapore (27)
2. Scotland (20)
3. England (17)
4. Ireland (15)
5. China (11)

*Non-degree seeking students
As a first-generation Vietnamese-American student, my family and I never could have dreamed that one day that I would have the opportunity to study abroad. Without my $5,000 Summer Study Abroad Fellowship, my experience in Florence would not have been possible.

JULIA HO, SUMMER 2023

Students who received need-based financial aid
(comparing the undergraduate Carolina population to Carolina students who study abroad on semester, year-long or summer programs)

- Study Abroad participants: 10%
- UNC-Chapel Hill undergraduates: 9%
- Covenant Scholars: 28%
- Need-Based Aid: 37%

Scholarships Awarded for Study Abroad

- $1,226,208: Total amount awarded
- 307: Applicants who received an award
- $3,994: Average amount awarded to each scholarship recipient

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