A Path to Mobility: Risk Management Resources for Community Colleges

CCID Annual Conference 2022
Agenda

• Introduction
• ECA and USA Study Abroad Overview
• IDEAS Program Overview
• Kirkwood Community College
• Loyola University New Orleans
• Case Studies
• Question & Answer Session
Speakers

• Rebecca Johnson, Program Officer, USA Study Abroad
• Dawn Wood, Dean of Global Learning, Kirkwood Community College
• Mariette Thomas, Director of the Center for International Education, Loyola University New Orleans
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)’s mission is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange that assist in the development of peaceful relations. ECA is committed to fairness, equity and inclusion, and its programs strive to reflect the diversity of the United States and global society.

- 55,000 participants engage in exchange programs funded by ECA annually
- 15,000 American participants travel abroad on exchanges each year
- 101 U.S. public and private non-profit institutions funded
ECA’s USA Study Abroad increases and diversifies U.S. study abroad through programs for both individuals and institutions. We help our future leaders gain the critical skills they need to advance U.S. national security and economic prosperity by:

- Offering study abroad opportunities;
- Building institutional capacity for study abroad; and
- Highlights the benefits of study abroad to individuals and the United States.

Americans studying abroad serve as citizen diplomats who connect with their peers, share U.S. cultures and values, and build the people-to-people relationships that are the bedrock of diplomacy.
The IDEAS Program

A program of the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, USA Study Abroad branch, implemented by World Learning.

Seeking to expand higher education institutions’ capacity to grow and diversify study abroad programs for U.S. students

• Increase number of students studying abroad from underrepresented groups
• Increase the number of U.S. higher education institutions offering study abroad programs
• Expand study abroad to new overseas destinations, particularly those that are less common

2022 Grant Competition

• Approximately 40 grants of up to $35,000

IDEAS Program Initiatives

• Virtual and in-person, open to everyone
Kirkwood Community College

- Public 2-year Comprehensive Community College
- 12,500 total students
- Pre-COVID: 170 students on short-term faculty led study abroad per year on 15-18 programs
- One full-time study abroad advisor
Kirkwood Community College

- Forum on Education Abroad Guidelines for Conducting Education Abroad during COVID-19
- Decision Matrix
- Risk Assessment
Kirkwood Decision Matrix

1. US DOS Travel Advisory
   - Level 4

2. Level 1-3 Pre-departure Planning
   - All students and faculty must be vaccinated
   - All students and faculty must have CFAR travel insurance ($200-$300 per person)

3. Review Country Specific Health Metrics
   - Availability and Options for Testing in country (rapid, etc.)
   - Metrics of infection rates in Country and Local Region (i.e. Ministry of Health)
     - Active Cases Rate
     - Vaccination Rate
   - Stress on Medical care (ICU Beds, etc.)

4. In Country COVID Restrictions/ Mitigations
   - Hand Sanitizer Supply
   - Face Covering Required?
   - Curfews or travel restrictions?
   - Vaccination Card required in country?
   - Return testing arrangements. Cost?
   - Daily Oxygen test/ Fever check.
   - Rapid testing availability. Cost?

5. Review/Modify Program Itinerary
   - Activities
     - Housing rooms, ventilation
     - In Country Transportation (Number of Moves, Mode of Transport, Space)
     - Service Projects Concerns
     - Proximity to other People
     - Any cost increases due to COVID?

   - Is cost prohibitive? (i.e. increase fee of >10%)
   - Are modifications needed unacceptable?

   - Go with Caution

   - No Go
Kirkwood
COVID-19 Risk Assessment

• Pre-Departure Planning
• Is US Entry allowed?
• Quarantine upon entry?
• Negative COVID Test needed? If yes, what type of test? What type of proof?
• Is proof of COVID Vaccination required? If yes, what type? What type of proof?
• Designated quarantine monitor?
Loyola University

- Private, Jesuit university founded in 1912
- Current enrollment: 4,548
- No dedicated International Risk Manager
- Student Mobility Pre-COVID-19: 150/year
  - 4% of enrolled students; 30% by graduation
- Recipient of IDEAS Grant in 2021
Loyola University

- Risk management approach pre-COVID-19
- Changes during the pandemic
- Current requirements

Plan if COVID positive before program, during program, before returning

1. Non-essential travel policy
2. Students must be fully vaccinated and boosted
3. Policies and procedures for study abroad in countries with a Level 3 or 4 Travel Advisory
4. Pre-departure communication with students
5. Faculty training
6. Financial responsibility
Kirkwood Community College Case Study

- Nepal - January 2022
- First Study Abroad during COVID
Loyola University Case Study

- Mexico - January 2022
- First faculty-led program during COVID
Lessons Learned

• Know your programs inside and out
• Lean on partners
• Set expectations with program participants
• Maintain routine contact with students
• Travel requests - treat as dialogue, compromise
Resources

- PDF available in the IDEAS Program [Library of Resources](#) includes:
  - COVID decision tree
  - Faculty-led study abroad program risk assessment
  - Pre-departure orientation slide
  - Pre-departure communication with students
  - COVID protocol
  - Emergency protocol
  - Faculty training resources
IDEAS Program Resources

- What the State Department and U.S. Embassies Can and Can’t do in a Crisis
- What Do Institutions Need to Know About U.S. Department of State Travel Advisories?
- The Future of Study Abroad: How to Decide When It Is Safe and Ethical to Begin Again
- The Future of Study Abroad: Risk Mitigation in a COVID World
- Priorities for a Return to Student Mobility: Working with Partners to Assess and Manage Risk
IDEAS Program Activities

- 2022 Grant Competition
- Webinars
- Workshops
The IDEAS Program supports Community Colleges!

Read more about IDEAS Grantees’ profiles and project descriptions on our website!

StudyAbroadCapacityBuilding.org