



World Learning
EDUCATION | DEVELOPMENT | EXCHANGE

IDEAS
INCREASE & DIVERSIFY
EDUCATION ABROAD
FOR U.S. STUDENTS

2024 IDEAS Grant Competition

Designing a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for your IDEAS Grant Proposal

#LaunchIDEASabroad

The IDEAS (Increase and Diversify Education Abroad for U.S. Students) Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by World Learning.

Presenter



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Agenda

- Monitoring and Evaluation Topics
 - Theory of Change
 - Design Principles
 - Indicators
 - Logic Model
- Q&A Session
- Additional Resources
- Timeline reminders

Key Features of a Theory of Change

- **What is it?**

An approach to the design of social programs, structured to clarify the causal logic and causal pathways by which change will occur

- **Details ideas and beliefs about HOW and WHY change will happen**

From the perspective of the activity, project, or organization

Based on existing evidence

Based on a deep understanding of the context and series of analyses

- **Demonstrates/describes the pathways of change**

If x [activity], then y [expected change], because z [rationale - why do you think this change will happen?]

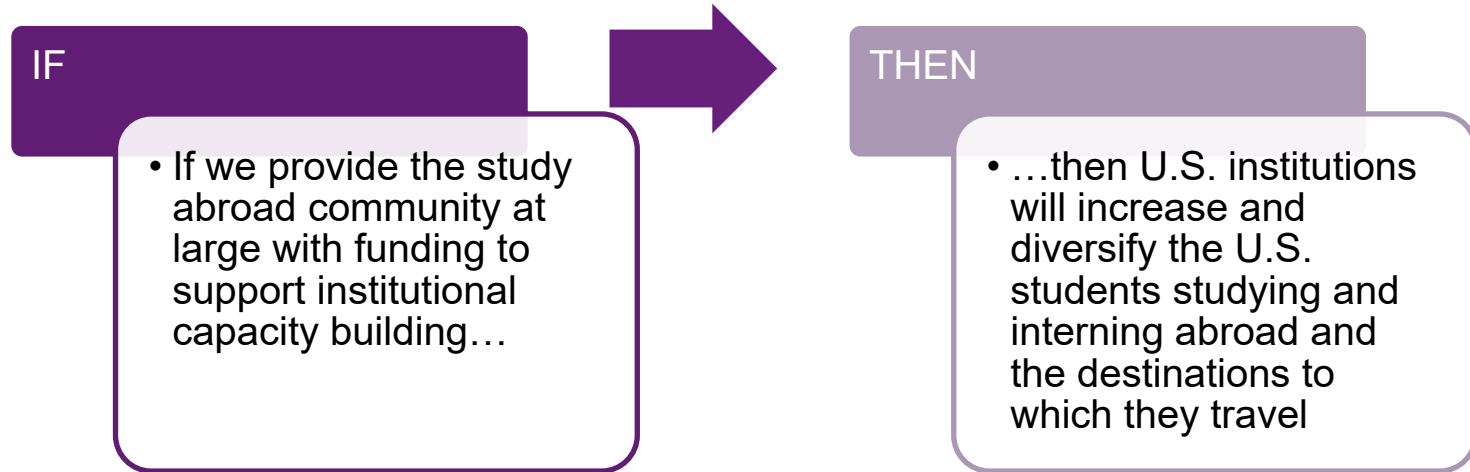
- **Identifies assumptions behind the expected change**

Programmatic assumptions (addressed by the project/Activity)

Contextual Assumptions (beyond the control of the project/Activity)

Theory of Change: IDEAS Program Example

- If x [activity], then y [expected change], because z [rationale - why do you think this change will happen?]
- **IDEAS Program Theory of Change**



Theory of Change Grantee Examples

IF

- Community college faculty in multiple programs of study are trained and supported to create interculturally competent virtual exchange and hybrid, short-term study abroad programs

THEN

- ...faculty will form peer relationships to share ideas and practices, overcome obstacles to implementation, and refine their programs

IF

- More students are able to participate in high-quality study abroad programs...

THEN

- ...interest in participation in study abroad will grow, with concomitant improvement in students' global and intercultural competencies.

Suggested MERL Design Principle

- **KISS** is an acronym started by the U.S. Navy in 1960. It stands for “Keep it simple, sailor.”
- The idea is most systems work best if they are kept simple rather than made more complicated.
- Simplicity should be a key goal in design and unnecessary complexity should be avoided.

Ex. from the U.S. Navy: When designing an airplane, it must be repairable by the average U.S. Navy mechanic under stressful conditions, using only a handful of tools.

Indicators

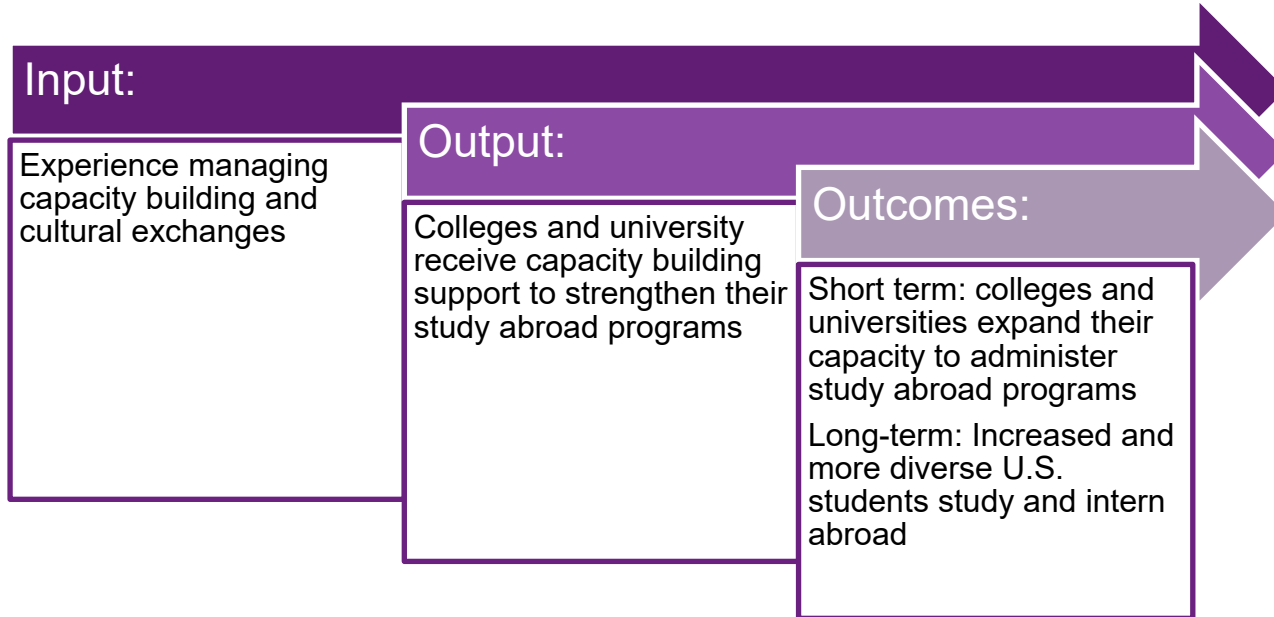
Indicators: Quantitative or qualitative factor or variable used to demonstrate change in a situation, or the progress in, or results of, an activity, project, or program

Indicators tell us what change is occurring but not necessarily why.

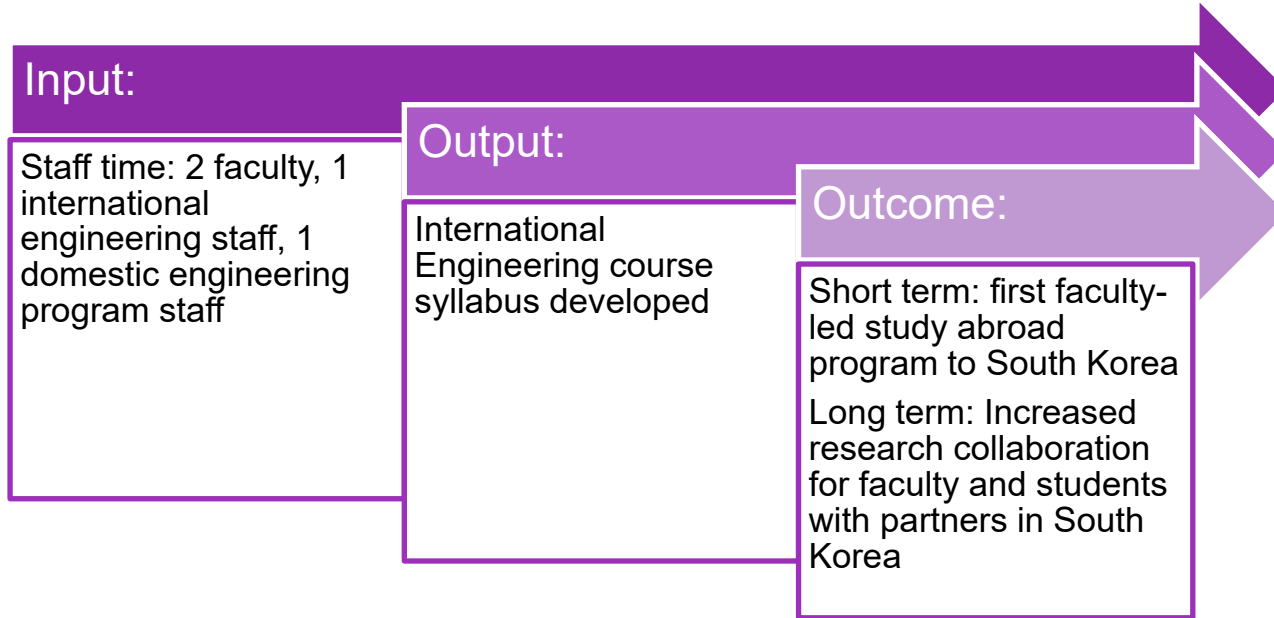
Indicators should be SMART(A) ...

S	Specific	Describe exactly what is expected
M	Measurable	Quantify success by articulating how much or how many
A	Attainable	Realistically achievable, neither over nor under ambitious
R	Relevant	Directly linked to the overall project objectives
T	Time-framed	Defined by a specific time, due date, or milestone
A	Actionable	Can be used to improve performance, learn more about implementation strategy, and/or make decisions

Indicator Type Examples: IDEAS Program



Indicator Type Examples: IDEAS Grantee



If a success framework is a “bucket,” which indicators might go in it?



- Logistics were near perfect?
- Participants said the program greatly changed their perspectives?
- Participants considerably modified their behaviors after participating in the program?

Logic Model

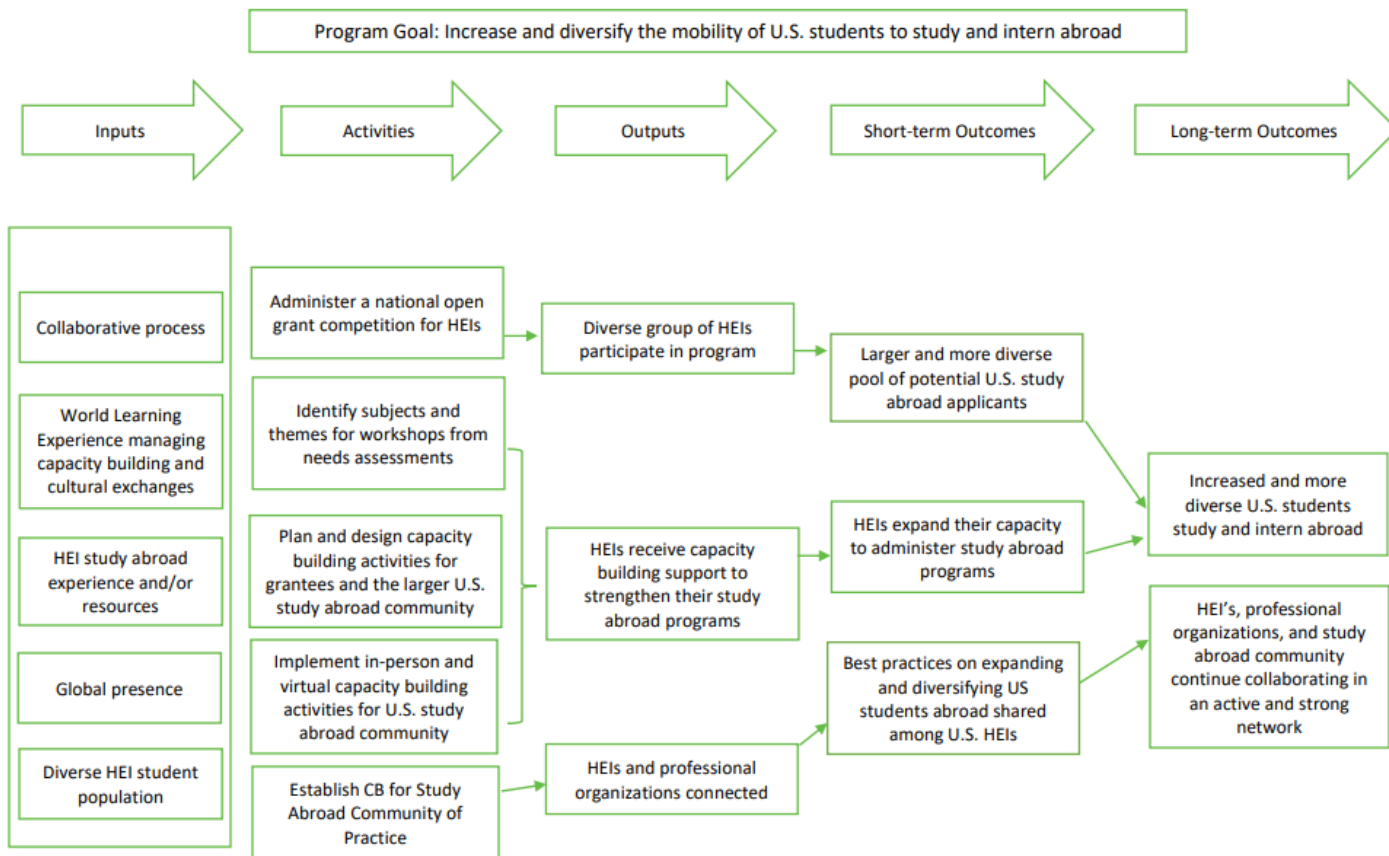
A logic model is like a road map. It is an organized and visual way to display your understanding of the relationships among the resources you have to operate your program, the activities you plan, and the changes or results you hope to achieve.

Some of the best reasons to create a logic model are that it:

- Makes your assumptions explicit; allowing you to challenge and examine them.
- Helps to build shared understanding and expectations of your program among staff and other stakeholders.
- Helps you identify the data you need to collect so that you can monitor and improve programming.
- Tells stakeholders the problem the program focuses on and how the program is qualified to address it.
- Helps to identify what evaluation questions should be asked and why.

IDEAS Program – Sample Logic Model

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Assumptions: The administration of the HEI supports study abroad programming as part of the institution's internationalization goals; larger and more diverse pool of potential study abroad applicant apply for study abroad programs.

MERL Proposal Requirements

Must include a monitoring and evaluation plan that:

- tracks key data points,
- establishes benchmarks, and
- has measurable objectives.

Evaluation Criteria

- Proposal includes a Logic Model which indicates the problems or issues to be addressed by the proposed project, the activities designed to address them, outputs, outcomes, and assumptions.
- Monitoring and evaluation plan tracks key data points relevant to the proposed project activities through established benchmarks.

MERL Proposal Requirements

- Description of
 - Monitoring systems and mechanisms to be used
 - Institutional capacity to monitor and evaluate project performance
 - Data collection methods, sources, collectors, timeline, analysis method
 - How data will be used to monitor implementation and outcomes
- Baseline and target statistics
- How indicators relate to the “if” and “then” components of theory of change
- Where relevant and appropriate to your project and institution, disaggregate your data by factors such as country of study and student groups such as field(s) of study, disability status, financial aid status, gender, ethnic background, race, first generation college students, and/or other identified underrepresented student groups

Additional Resources

- [Assessment Resources Hyperdoc](#)
- **Program and Partner Evaluation and Assessment** session recording: <https://youtu.be/LZzcd2FKwGE>
- **Student Assessment** session recording: <https://youtu.be/Z5kUUqYAM8U>
- **Assessment for Faculty-led Programming** session recording: <https://youtu.be/hBfSolmP2KY>
- Additional resources: <https://www.studyabroadcapacitybuilding.org/resources/>

Questions?

Please enter your questions in the Q&A box.

Important Dates

April 4, 2024

- Phase 2 Closes at 11:59pm EST



April-May
2024

- Phase 2 Review



June 2024

- Finalists Announced



September 1,
2024-February
28, 2026

- Grant period of performance



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