The IDEAS (Increase and Diversify Education Abroad for U.S. Students) Program seeks to build higher education institutions’ capacity to expand study abroad programs for U.S. students through the provision of grants and capacity building activities. Each year, the IDEAS Program awards grants of up to $35,000 to competitively selected U.S. colleges and universities from across the United States. The program also offers U.S. colleges and universities opportunities to participate in a series of study abroad capacity building activities, both virtual and in-person, to help establish, expand, and/or broaden their study abroad programs.

IDEAS GRANTS HIGHLIGHTS

From 2019 to 2023, the IDEAS Program provided 150 grants to U.S. higher education institutions to help build and strengthen their capacity to send more U.S. students — including those who are underrepresented in study abroad opportunities — overseas to destinations across all world regions.

As a result of IDEAS grants:

- 35% grants support MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS
- 23% grants support COMMUNITY COLLEGES
- ~25% grants support RURAL INSTITUTIONS
- 47 U.S. states + DC & PUERTO RICO REPRESENTED
- 500+ FACULTY ENGAGED
- 320+ CAMPUS & VIRTUAL EVENTS CONDUCTED
- 124 SYLLABI DEVELOPED
- 158 INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS CREATED

Thanks to our IDEAS grant, UTA students and faculty actively engaged in enriching activities and community interactions during their time abroad in Kenya. Our study abroad program stands as a testament to the transformative and life-altering learning opportunities that such programs can provide.

“The IDEAS Program anticipates that because of these program outputs, more than 10,000 U.S. students will be impacted and exposed to study abroad opportunities over the next five years.”

-University of Texas at Arlington, IDEAS Grantee
GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT

Mott Community College
Location: Flint, MI
Destinations: Costa Rica, Peru
Foreign Policy Goal Focus: Civil Society, Journalism and Education; Climate, Energy, and the Environment

“Following our grant-funded trip, we have nurtured the relationships we built with Costa Rican universities and have already begun successful collaborations with them. We helped train some of their faculty members on virtual exchange and they have begun organizing virtual exchange projects with our faculty at Mott. We have five faculty members taking 10 students each to Costa Rica in the coming year. All of this has been possible because of the IDEAS grant support. We know that all of this work will have great impact on our students and our community for generations to come.”

- Mott Community College, IDEAS Grantee

ILLUSTRATIVE PROJECT EXAMPLES

Illustrative project examples from past grantee proposals include:

- Create a faculty-led study abroad program
- Create a study abroad position or office
- Develop study abroad programs and resources to engage student groups or destinations underrepresented in study abroad
- Develop virtual exchange models and programs

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY GOALS

Projects developed by IDEAS grant recipient institutions address one or more of the following foreign policy goals:

- CIVIL SOCIETY, JOURNALISM, AND EDUCATION
- DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS
- CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- GLOBAL HEALTH
- TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

IDEAS PROGRAM INITIATIVES

IDEAS Program initiatives convey best practices, increase knowledge sharing and networking, and provide resources to the broader study abroad community. These free initiatives support the study abroad community through an online library of resources, webinars, and workshops. Training themes include faculty-led study abroad, assessment and evaluation, crisis intervention, and other timely and relevant topics.

The 2019-2023 IDEAS Program trainings reached over 3,000 study abroad professionals from over 1,000 colleges and universities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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