



IDEAS Virtual Institute: Alabama State University (Winter 2025)

This institute focuses on equipping participants with the knowledge, tools, and strategies to design and implement virtual and hybrid study abroad programs that expand access to global learning opportunities. Through practical examples from ASU and partner institutions, collaborative sessions, and asynchronous activities, participants will develop actionable plans to integrate virtual and hybrid programming into their study abroad portfolios. ASU will spotlight examples from their partners and programs in East Africa, but lessons will be widely applicable to those wishing to develop programming and partners in any new destination, particularly those that are less common.

Institute Schedule (all times EST)

Friday, January 31 (2 hours)

1:00 – 1:30 pm	Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Speakers:</i> U.S. Department of State, IDEAS Program staff, and Alabama State University • <i>Goal:</i> Introduction to the institute, objectives, and overview of virtual and hybrid study abroad programming. • <i>Description:</i> Short presentations by key stakeholders followed by an interactive icebreaker activity to foster participant connection.
1:30 – 3:00 pm	Session A: Overview of Virtual and Hybrid Study Abroad Programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Facilitator/Speaker:</i> Dr. Denise Davis-Maye, Department of Social Work • <i>Goal:</i> Understand the landscape of virtual and hybrid study abroad programming. • <i>Description:</i> Presentation on current trends on which students and which destinations are represented in virtual and hybrid programming, followed by group activity analyzing successful programs.
Asynchronous Content	Reading Assignment A: Introduction to Virtual Study Abroad Models <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Goal:</i> Familiarize participants with various models of virtual study abroad programs. • <i>Description:</i> Reading material provided on Canvas, with a guided reflection prompt for discussion on Discord.

Friday, February 7 (2 hours)

1:00 – 1:30 pm	Recap and Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Goal:</i> Reflect on Reading Assignment A and share insights. • <i>Description:</i> Moderated discussion on Zoom, encouraging participants to share takeaways and questions.
1:30 – 3:00 pm	Session B: Designing Engaging Content for Virtual Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Facilitator/Speaker:</i> Dr. Kenley Obas, Specialist in Educational Technology • <i>Goal:</i> Learn to create engaging and interactive content for virtual study abroad programs. • <i>Description:</i> Workshop on using Canvas and Google Drive for content creation, followed by a group activity to design a mini-module. Discussion will include the importance of ensuring accessibility for both students and international partners, particularly those in less common destinations and/or who are underrepresented in study abroad.



Asynchronous Content	<p>Campus Collaboration Assignment B: Identifying Potential for Virtual Programming at Your Institution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Goal:</i> Assess the potential for implementing virtual study abroad programs • <i>Description:</i> Participants outline opportunities and challenges at their institutions for their unique student populations and/or a geographic area of program interest, shared via Google Drive for peer feedback.
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Friday, February 14 (2 hours)

1:00 – 1:30 pm	<p>Recap and Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Goal:</i> Discuss Campus Collaboration Assignment B outcomes. • <i>Description:</i> Insights and feedback session on Zoom, focusing on overcoming identified challenges.
1:30 – 3:00 pm	<p>Session C: Building Partnerships for Virtual and Hybrid Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Facilitator/Speaker:</i> Dr. Denise Davis-Maye • <i>Goal:</i> Explore strategies for establishing effective international partnerships for virtual and hybrid programming with a focus on destinations which are less common for in-person study abroad. • <i>Description:</i> Presentation on partnership models, followed by breakout sessions on Zoom to brainstorm potential partnerships.
Asynchronous Content	<p>Participant Discussion Group Assignment C: Developing a Partnership Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Goal:</i> Apply knowledge on partnerships to develop a proposal in a new global destination. • <i>Description:</i> Using Google Drive, participants draft partnership proposals, discussed and refined through Discord.

Two-week break between synchronous sessions to allow participants to work on their final projects.

Friday, February 28 (2 hours)

1:00 – 1:30 pm	<p>Recap and Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Goal:</i> Share partnership proposal drafts and receive feedback. • <i>Description:</i> Peer review session on Zoom, facilitated by institute leaders.
1:30 – 3:00 pm	<p>Session D: Implementing and Evaluating Virtual and Hybrid Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Facilitator/Speaker:</i> Dr. Kenley Obas • <i>Goal:</i> Understand the essentials of implementing and evaluating virtual and hybrid study abroad programs. • <i>Description:</i> Insights into best practices for program launch, marketing to ensure that programs reach the intended student audience, monitoring, and evaluation, with interactive Q&A.
Asynchronous Content	<p>Wrap-up and Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Goal:</i> Reflect on the institute's learning outcomes and next steps.