

Faculty-Led Study Abroad Program Proposal Department Chair/College Dean Review Guidelines

These guidelines have been developed to assist department chairs and college deans when reviewing proposals for faculty-led study abroad programs by faculty members.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR/COLLEGE DEAN

The Office of International Academic Initiatives aims to support the goals and objectives of your College. Your signature on Faculty-led Program proposals indicates to the (IAI) your endorsement of the academic aspects of the proposed program and the eligibility and ability of the faculty leader/s to successfully manage and lead students abroad. IAI will not review or approve programs until they have been reviewed and approved by the Chair and Dean to ensure all programs are supported by the College.

IAI will assess location, feasibility, costs, on-site support services, sustainability, and health and safety issues when reviewing the proposal. If you have comments, concerns or questions regarding these components please feel free to contact IAI staff as part of your review process.

PROPOSAL PROCESS

All faculty-led programs administered by IAI are credit-bearing and are developed in partnership with MSU academic departments and colleges. A faculty member who wishes to lead a program overseas that carries academic credit must submit a proposal and be approved within their college and by IAI and adhere to the policies and procedures regarding faculty-led programs.

Spring and Summer Program proposals are due to IAI by December 15. Winter Session program abstract proposals are also due by December 15 and then have a more intensive development period. The proposal approval process is designed to give 'in principle' support for faculty to proceed and develop a full program in conjunction with IAI staff. If a proposal is approved by the Chair, Dean and IAI, faculty will be invited to develop the full program details. Proposals include rationale, course names and numbers, target student population, and program components.

Montclair State University will carefully review programs and destinations for safety and feasibility. Among other factors, [U.S. Department of State](#) Travel Advisories will be considered.

Countries with elevated advisories will be considered on a case-by-case basis and subject to additional risk assessment. A final determination will be made in consultation with University Counsel, the Director of Risk Management and the Office of the Provost. Once a proposal is approved, IAI will work with the faculty member to develop the program during which changes may be made as needed. The department chairs(s) and college dean(s) will be consulted regarding any changes to the academic content, course offerings, number of contact hours/credits, and/or faculty director(s)/assistant(s). Other changes may include (but are not limited to) program dates, program length, housing, and cultural activities.

APPROVING A PROPOSAL

Department chairs and college deans are asked to review all academic components of the proposal including course subject matter, instructional delivery methods, and contact hour requirements. It is the intention of the Office of International Academic Initiatives to support programs that academic chairs and deans have determined are well integrated into the objectives of the college and department. IAI will not run any program that is not approved and supported by the College Dean.

Courses

Adaptations to the course outline, learning activities, and assignments may be made with the approval of the department chairs and college deans to reflect the international context in which it will be taught.

Please consider the following questions when assessing the course(s) associated with the program:

1. Is the course(s) being offered applicable to the host country/region and will it be taught in context?
2. Does the proposed program meet the learning objectives indicated in the university approved syllabus(i)?

3. Does the program proposal indicate how the proposed learning activities meet the course objectives?

Study Abroad Program Faculty Leader(s)

Eligibility

The faculty leaders must be full-time tenured, or tenure-track faculty. With a strong rationale, a faculty leader may propose a full-time, 12-month administrator as the second program leader.

Faculty who are on sabbatical may not lead any program during the entire term of the sabbatical.

Adjunct faculty are not eligible to serve as program leaders or second leaders.

Instructional Specialists who, prior to the submission of an abstract or proposal, have a stipulation in their contract that their salary includes leading a study abroad program, may be proposed as program leaders. The appropriate Dean and Chair of the faculty must confirm during the proposal stage that the IS eligible to receive teaching salary for the proposed study abroad program.

Suitability

Responsibilities of a Faculty Leader will extend beyond those of a professor. A Faculty Leader will be a recruiter, administrator, institutional representative, advisor, facilitator and crisis manager.

Please consider the following factors when assessing the ability of the faculty member to recruit for and lead a program:

1. Does the faculty member have the necessary expertise to teach the course(s) associated with the program?
2. Does s/he have other commitments that might prevent him/her from carrying out the full duties of a Faculty Program or Faculty/Staff Assistant Leader prior to, during, or after the program? Please note that Faculty who will be absent for a significant part of the academic year prior to the proposed program may not be suitable leaders as they may not be available for recruitment and program planning.

3. Does s/he have sufficient connections on campus to recruit participants for the program?
4. Will/can the department assist in the promotion of the program?

Multiple Proposals

Competition between programs within your department and/or college should be considered if multiple proposals are submitted for the same cycle/term. Here are some things to consider:

1. Do the programs compete with each other?
2. Are distinct courses offered on each program?
3. Will the programs draw from the same pool of applicants?
4. Is there sufficient student demand in the discipline for more than one program in any given year/term?

Interdisciplinary programs are encouraged as they increase the learning outcomes for the students and the marketability of the program. Please note that if multiple departments are included, each department chair and corresponding college dean must sign off on the proposal.

Feel free to consult International Academic Initiatives to discuss departmental or college strategies for faculty-led programming.