

Increase the scope and sophistication of our international programs - Study Abroad

We completely agree with a., b., and c of the International Planning document. Reaching the goal of 25% of the graduating class may not put us in the ranks of the Top 20 by total number of study abroad students at Doctoral/Research Institutions. Schools that currently rank ahead of us are also growing and developing in new ways. Many of the top 20 are in the 25% range now and will continue to grow.

- a. Institutional partnerships will give us quality but not great quantity. Internships abroad with companies and NGO's may give us both quality and quantity. Institutional policies on accepting internship credit is very uneven across the University and new policies and practices will have to be established. Setting up internships can be very time intensive unless we partner with already established internship providers. International service learning and research should also be encouraged. A curricular integration plan should be made for each department to provide a track which allows for study abroad and acceptable time to degree completion of degree. Scholarship assistance will be needed for students participating in these types of programs.
- b. Winterterm, Spring break and Summer should be utilized for more short-term, faculty led study abroad programs. More semester and year programs should also be established. UM's study abroad programs have been recognized by *US News and World Report* as "Programs to Watch." More faculty led programs will require more faculty and more incentives and support than currently exist. Departments should consider release-time or on-load policies for their faculty participating in study abroad programs. Scholarship assistance will be needed for students participating in these types of programs.

Goals:

- (a) Grow above the national average consistently and significantly.
- (b) Maintain our designation and improve our ranking as a "Program to Watch" by U.S. News and World Report. (This is a quality issue.)
- (c) Be known for programs supporting diversity in student population, in a multiplicity of places, and supporting many disciplines.

Proposed Methodology:

- (a) Have programs available and affordable through scholarship assistance. Currently have approximately \$50,000 per year. \$20,000 per year comes from Winterterm (Provost) and the rest is generated from the self-support, study abroad budget. Many other schools, much smaller than UM have bigger scholarship pools. Towson, \$100,000; University of Idaho, \$101,000, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, \$110,000, University of Texas, Austin, \$250,000. Duke offers a ninth semester of financial aid for students to study abroad.

(b) The Study Abroad Office will need more technical support immediately and more staffing immediately and on an incremental basis. Study Abroad is a self-support unit. It will need an infusion of University funding through increasing current fees and exploring new fees to generate sufficient funding for the proposed growth. Immediate consideration should be given to initiating a fee for students who study abroad on non-University of Maryland programs. Institutions with significantly higher numbers than UM have automated their application and approval systems.*

(c) Offer a course release option for faculty to develop new study abroad programs.

Proposed Staffing: Estimate, ballpark: 3 full time staff members, more as numbers grow, \$120,000

Proposed Budget: Estimate, ballpark: Scholarship funding, \$250,000

Operating funds for infrastructure growth: \$50,000

* Automated system will cost c.\$250,000