

BEFORE YOU PROPOSE

FACULTY GUIDE FOR STUDY ABROAD

LEARN FROM EXPERIENCE

Confer with other faculty members in your department, your department head, or your dean to learn more about which programs and locations have already been attempted. Which ones were successful? Which ones were not? Why?

KNOW YOUR STUDENTS

How comfortable/experienced are your target students with traveling abroad? Are these students financially independent? How would international experience benefit these specific students? Do your target students typically have other education or work obligations that may overlap with your intended program dates? Which courses are necessary for the most students within your department and/or college? The answers may affect the location, date, topic, and price of your program.

CONSIDER THE NUMBERS

Currently, less than one percent of MSU students study abroad. If you propose a program that is only useful for students in your department, which consists of 50 students... You do the math. If you propose a program that fulfills a requirement for most students in your college or even outside your college, your chances of success increase.

AVOID CANNIBALIZATION

By taking a more strategic approach to program proposals, colleges and departments can increase their participation rates. When two professors from the same department propose programs, they are essentially splitting their pool of applicants in half. The same goes for similar locations, dates, and courses. Alternate years or offer something unique to ensure success for all proposed programs.

FORM A UNIFIED FRONT

When one faculty member's program succeeds, all programs benefit by extension. By supporting each other and the very idea of study abroad on campus, we can "normalize" the concept. Besides faculty members, the best promoters of study abroad on campus are study abroad alumni – the more positive experiences they have, the more students they may inspire to study abroad.

