

Getting Started on a Faculty-Led Study Abroad Program

Thank you for your interest in exploring the possibility of developing and directing a faculty-led study abroad program! The following information was prepared to help potential faculty leaders think through the planning and proposal process. If you don't know much about leading such a program, we encourage you to read the information that follows and to talk with Mr. Jay Ward, Associate Director of the Office of International Programs (jward@sfsu.edu/415-338-1121) as well as to colleagues who have directed programs in the past. Proposals are due at least 7 months in advance of your planned departure date, and you will probably need at least a semester (or more) of lead time to prepare. We look forward to working with you during this early phase of your program.

1. Criteria for Leading a Faculty-Led Study Abroad (FLSA) Program

- Any SFSU faculty member may propose and lead an FLSA Program regardless of faculty status or rank (tenure, tenure track, lecturer, retired).
- All faculty leaders must have completed one year of service with SFSU at the time the proposal is submitted.
- All faculty leaders must have written approval form both their department chair and college dean.
- All program leaders or assistants are expected to travel and stay with student participants throughout the entire course of the program. Running a FLSA Program can be very challenging and is very different than the traditional faculty role found on campus. Faculty leaders are the primary point of contact when abroad with students and are required to wear many hats: professor, representative for SFSU, counselor, disciplinarian, confidante, on-site expert, etc.
- Two faculty leaders may choose to work together and co-lead a FLSA Program. The budget will need to be developed carefully to ensure the program is able to cover the added costs associated with having a second program leader. Often times this means the minimum student enrollment will be higher or faculty leaders will need to be able to find economical ways of keeping program costs low, as to not make the price of the program prohibitive.
- If each faculty leader is from a different academic department/college, approval is required from both academic department chairs and college deans.
- We recommend a student/faculty leader ratio of no more than 15 students for each faculty leader (15:1). If more than 15 students, then a second SFSU faculty member must be appointed co-leader and meet all of the same requirements as the primary faculty leader.
- Only in extraordinary circumstance (death in the family, sudden illness, etc.) will any requests for modification of these criteria be considered.

2. How And When Do I Submit A Proposal?

The first step in the process is to schedule an **“In-Take Meeting”** with Mr. Jay Ward, Associate Director of the Office of International Programs. Please contact Jay at 415-338-1121 or via email at: jward@sfsu.edu to get started.

We also strongly recommend that you read the helpful **“Faculty Leader Information”** on OIP’s **Faculty-Led Study Abroad Programs website** at: <http://oip.sfsu.edu/facultyleader>

Proposal Deadlines: For programs taking place during winter session, you must submit your completed proposal no later than June 1; for summer session programs, you must submit your completed proposal before November 1; for programs taking place during the spring break, you must submit your completed proposal before September 1; all completed proposals must be received at least 7 months in advance of your scheduled departure date.

We require that all proposals be submitted to our office at least 7 months in advance of your scheduled departure date because of the lengthy on-campus approval process that is due to the following reasons:

- Chancellor's Office Executive Orders require the campus President to approve all faculty-lead study abroad programs;
- Before your proposal can be submitted to the President, however, it must be carefully reviewed by several offices including your department chair, dean, Risk Management, CEL CFO/Budget Director (if you decide to run your program through CEL Summer Self-Support) and finally by the Provost;
- In certain cases, your proposal may also require review and approval by both campus legal counsel as well as by the Chancellor's Office in Long Beach.

Therefore we require summer proposals no later than November 1st; winter proposals no later than June 1st; and spring proposal no later than September 1st so that there will be sufficient time for you to market your course to prospective students as well as to make the necessary arrangements (visas, airline reservations, orientation, etc.) **AFTER** your proposal makes it through the on-campus review and approval process.

3. What About Faculty Compensation?

Faculty may choose to receive their salary and/or obtain reimbursement of their trip-related expenses; however, trips must not run a deficit and must generate sufficient income to cover all program-related expenses and overhead. OIP or CEL do not cover the cost of faculty passports or routine immunizations or first-aid training; any and all faculty expenses to be covered by the program must appear in the program's approved final budget.

4. Developing a Budget/Determining Program Costs?

It is critically important to make sure that all program/operating costs are covered by revenue (tuition) and that you develop a **"Budget Shortfall Plan"** detailing how you intend to compensate for any budget shortfall if the program does not meet minimum enrollment requirements.

5. Who Can I Talk to About My Proposal?

Before you submit a proposal, we highly recommend that you contact Mr. Jay Ward, Associate Director of the Office of International Programs, to schedule an In-Take meeting so that we can discuss your ideas.

6. Questions?

Feel free to contact Mr. Jay Ward, Associate Director of the Office of International Programs at 415-338-1121 or via email at: jward@sfsu.edu