

# iCAP Team Recommendation

Name of iCAP Team: Education

iCAP Team chair(s): Jessica Nicholson

Date submitted to iWG:

Recommendation title: Accounting for Sustainability in Study Abroad

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*For internal use only:* Date reviewed by iCAP Working Group:

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**Specific actions/policy recommendation:** The Illinois Abroad Council Steering Committee (IACSC) with the Environmental Sustainability and Study Abroad Working Group will charge the Directors of each college's study abroad program with assigning a member to this study abroad sustainability working group. Further, each Director should be charged to meet with the Environmental Sustainability and Study Abroad Working Group once per semester, at minimum. Through involvement in this working group, these representatives will gain the background needed to develop a collaborative effort to address climate-related impacts associated with study abroad. This would elicit a set of best practices and policy for all college-based international programs office in the areas of program orientation, re-entry programming, program policies regarding travel, community engagement, short term faculty led programming, environmental awareness and education. Continued support from iSEE and ongoing consultation with iSEE will be appreciated. As the program evolves, public updates on the iCAP portal will be of benefit to all stakeholders.

**Suggested unit/department to address implementation:** Each college should appoint a representative to work with the Environmental Sustainability and Study Abroad Working Group. LAS, ACES, IAGE and iSEE are already participating.

**Rationale for recommendation:** Kate Abney, Associate Director of Intercultural and Global Learning in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, approached the Education iCAP team with the intent to incorporate sustainability learning into LAS 291/292 Global Perspectives (a mandatory 3-credit course that accompanies study abroad). These sustainability learning outcomes would focus on the impact of all forms of travel, as well as the impact of any activities or events that would occur during the trip. Beyond this course, Kate expressed a desire to incorporate activities that focus on mitigation of environmental impact before, during, and after travel. This expertise is being shared within the Environmental Sustainability and Study Abroad Working Group. Ali Freter, Director of the ACES Abroad program, and Andy Hinnant from IAGE is also a member of this working group. The education iCAP team believes that if more colleges are represented in this group, its information exchange would allow for each college to achieve their own sustainability objectives within their study abroad programming, planning and curricular development that fit their purpose and desired learning outcomes. Greater college representation will also help identify what barriers exist to reducing student travel impact and identify college-specific needs for integration of sustainability education into the curriculum.

**Connection to iCAP goals:**

- 3.5 Offset Air Travel Emissions
- 5.3 Zero-Waste Events
- 6.1 Broaden Sustainability Education

**Perceived challenges:**

- Coordination of schedules between college representatives
- No clear representative within some study abroad programs

**Anticipated timeline of implementation:** Spring 2023

**Anticipated budget:** Study abroad staff/faculty time for working group meetings. Future course development costs may arise but are outside the scope of this recommendation.

Individual comments are required from each iCap Team member (one or two sentences):

| Team Member Name    | Team Member's Comments   |
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| Luis Rodriguez      | Approved.  |
| Jessica Nicholson   | I approve, it will be valuable to develop sustainability-focused objectives in different study abroad programs. Students have a lot to learn about their own environmental impact as well as how that impact differs in other countries with varying sustainable practices.  |
| Kate Abney          | I support these recommendations and I would add that we need campuswide consensus from every college participating in Education Abroad international programming efforts. My hope is that we can universalize a set of best practices into policy measures and those can be tailored to fit the needs of the colleges. |
| Anna Mehl           | I support these recommendations. Input and perspective from the Directors of each college's study abroad program is essential to identifying actionable and coherent policy as the committee work continues.   |
| Gretchen Forman     | I support these recommendations. Input and consensus from all colleges participating in Education Abroad is needed. Providing a policy that can be used to fit each college's need would be wonderful.   |
| Eric Green          | I support this recommendation.   |
| Anna-Maria Marshall | I support this recommendation.   |
| Grace Smith         | I support this recommendation. It is important to incorporate study abroad representatives into the working group teams.   |

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| Bella Polizzotto | I support this recommendation.           |
| Asli Topuzlu     | This recommendation has my full support. |

Further explanation and background (can be supplied in an attachment):

Comments from consultation group (if any; these can be anonymous):