

Affiliate Program Approval Questions

The Learning Abroad Center program development committee centrally reviews program options abroad on a regular basis. Credit-bearing programs are reviewed in consultation with LACAC (the Learning Abroad Center Advisory Council). The following list of questions represents a combination of pedagogical, legal, academic, ethical, and cultural considerations reflecting best practices and standards in the field of education abroad and defined by the University of Minnesota.

This process is open and can be requested by external organizations or institutions. The process can also be initiated by University of Minnesota departments or colleges.

General Affiliate Program or Partner Approval (Credit and Non-credit):

- Whom is the program designed to serve?
- Does this program fulfill an academic need, program model or experiential need i.e. service learning, integrated, or geographic area, that is not being met by current LAC or University offerings?
- Will the destination or program be of interest to students?
- Is the destination viable for travel (State Department Warning or excessive visa regulations)?
- Where is the program centrally administered?
- What resources and infrastructure exist on site?
- What is the cost structure and value?
- Are health, safety, emergency, and liability requirements required by the University of Minnesota adequately addressed?
- Is it a non-profit or for-profit organization?
- Does the program market programs appropriately?
- Does the program engage ethically with local communities?
- How does the program integrate local culture and perspectives into program design?
- For research or health-related programs, how does the program ensure that participants are not allowed to participate in activities beyond their qualifications and training as unlicensed students or that deal with sensitive populations?
- Do other peer institutions use the program (referral)?
- Is there a process for external review and quality assessment?
- Does the program duplicate existing University of Minnesota programs?
- How does this program support department/campus/university goals and initiatives?

Credit Bearing Programs:

- What are the program's articulated academic goals or learning outcomes?
- How does the site(s) and program design enhance these goals?
- Does the program integrate cultural and local perspectives into academic coursework?
- Are language requirements and components appropriate?
- How is the program accredited?
- How would credits transfer to the University of Minnesota (level, credit load, liberal education, elective, sequencing)?
- What is the program's process for academic evaluation and oversight?
- How are grades assessed on site?
- What are the credentials required for instructors on site?
- How are experiential components (internship, field research) assessed?

Non-credit programs:

- What are the developmental or professional goals or outcomes identified by the program?
- How does the site support identified goals?
- Does the program clearly define the experience on site?
- Does the program clearly define participant expectations?
- Is preparation, orientation, and appropriate reflection integrated adequately?
- What are the associated fees or compensation?
- What is the supervision and facilitation on site?
- Are activities safe and appropriate?

*Conflicts of Interest: University of Minnesota staff and faculty should not endorse programs abroad or engage in activities that could represent a conflict of interest. Such activities may include sites visits or reviews associated with student enrollment, program endorsement, or participation quotas and reimbursement or discounts related to quotas.

Resources:

The Forum on Education Abroad www.forumea.org

NAFSA www.nafsa.org

IVPA www.volunteerinternational.org

Learning Abroad Center

230 Heller Hall, 271 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455

612.626.9000 • 888.700.UOFM • 612.626.8009 (fax) • UMabroad@umn.edu • UMabroad.umn.edu