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Developing a
Faculty Led
Study Abroad
Course



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What is a “Faculty Led Study Abroad Course” at Fitchburg State?

A faculty-led study abroad program is one in which a faculty member oversees a study abroad experience for students enrolled in a credit-bearing course.





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Programs can be designed around an established on-campus course and include an experience abroad or can be an entire course taught abroad. Students enroll in the program and associated course to satisfy a degree program requirement.





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The faculty member, staff from the Office of International Education and an external study abroad International Education Organization (IEO) work together to organize cultural activities and excursions that enhance the educational experience abroad.





When Can a Faculty Led Study Abroad Course be Offered?

- During the Summer Session, generally in 4 week formats.
- In the Fall or Spring with travel embedded during the semester, spring break or at the end of the semester.
- During the January term, also referred to as “Winter Session.”



How Have Courses Been Listed?

Options vary by department:

- Departmental shell course.
- Create a new course proposal and submit through standard University course approval process.
- Teach as a “Topics” course.
- Adapt a pre-existing course already in the catalogue.



What about compensation?

Faculty are compensated for the course being taught according to their faculty contract. If the course is part of the day schedule in the fall or spring semesters, the faculty member will teach the course as part of their regular load. If the course is being offered through Graduate and Continuing Education (GCE), the faculty member will be compensated at the DGCE faculty contract rates. In addition, assuming enrollment meets the minimum participant requirement, faculty travel (including housing accommodations) will be covered through the program budget.



Items For Consideration

1. Will this program enroll at least ten (10) students in order to make it financially feasible to cover program costs?
2. Does the program fill a curricular need for a major, minor, LA&S requirement or elective? (This is needed for students to access Financial Aid to help pay for the program.)
3. Are prerequisites required for language or other courses?
4. Is there an existing program that already meets these needs?
5. Does the program offer something unique that cannot be accomplished on campus?



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6. Is there a specific reason that this program should take place in the specified location?
7. Does the time of year when the program is planned appeal to students? Is the length of the program appropriate for the academic content?
8. Will the cost of the program be reasonable and competitive with similar programs?
9. Are seasonal costs, airfare, lodging, food, etc. higher or lower during the time this program will be offered?
10. Is the political/economic situation stable in the country of destination? Are there any U.S. State Department travel warnings in place for this country?
11. Which students will this program attract (specific majors/minors)? Will the program attract students outside the major/minors department?



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Fitchburg State faculty have taken hundreds of students abroad over the years, and the numbers just keep increasing! Currently Fitchburg State has over 120 students applying for 7 programs for 2018 spring/summer semesters.

We are so excited to assist faculty with the development of these high impact programs that provide students the opportunity to become global citizens. These programs provide a student the opportunity to:

1. Get a passport*.
2. Navigate an international airport.
3. Set boots on the ground in another country.





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Throughout the process, the main goal is to provide a safe, affordable option for Fitchburg State University students to have the opportunity to become global citizens.





Humanities

- Italian
- Reading Latin Inscriptions
- Italian Culture & Society
- Art of the Renaissance
- Italian Art & Architecture
- Travel Writing
- Spanish Art & Culture





Economics, History & Political Science

- Food: The Mediterranean Connection
- Modern Italian History
- Life in the Roman City
- Europe Today
- Global Issues: Irish Troubles
- Peace Studies



Professor Emerita Susan Williams was a mentor to new faculty teaching courses in the Verona Program. This is a great photo of her waving at us while we work and she is painting and hiking in New Mexico.



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Communications Media

- Photography
- Intercultural Communication
- Video Games, Contemporary Arts & Culture in Japan





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English Studies

- Footprints of Legend:
Medieval England
- Paris: Absurd and
Experimental
- Italian Film and
Literature in the
Post-World War II Era





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Footprints of Legend: Medieval England, *Professor Kisha Tracy*

High Impact Programming

- 3/10 students received graduate degrees abroad,
- 1 student readying for a Fulbright in England.



This slide was placed here to highlight how awesome Professor Tracy is. Her support for study abroad has not wavered since day 1! I am so thankful to have had the chance to work with her over the years.



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Nursing

- Community Health in Ghana,
- Global Public Health





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Theatre

- Fringe Festival





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Exercise Science

- Health & Fitness
Across Cultures





Biology/Chemistry

- Chemistry of Verona:
Basic Nutrition &
Chemistry of
Winemaking, Cheese
Making and Olive Oil





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Business Administration

- Luxury Brand Management





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Computer Sciences

- Computer Science Basics
- Chinese Culture





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Where Would You Like To Go?