

TO: MEMBERS OF THE UC DAVIS DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
SUBJECT: INTEGRATION OF STUDY ABROAD INTO UC DAVIS CURRICULA

At the recent Chancellor's Fall Conference entitled "Internationalization of the Campus" several excellent suggestions were generated. One key recommendation was the need to better integrate study abroad experiences into the UC Davis curriculum. In that light, we want to draw your attention to UC Davis' innovative Study Abroad Academic Integration project that will enable you to streamline study abroad advising as it applies to your department.

The Education Abroad Center staff will help academic departments and colleges integrate study abroad more fully into curricula and advising for undergraduate students. This project will also help identify the specific study abroad programs and courses for your majors that are least likely to add time to their degrees.

Internationalizing of the campus is a high priority for UC Davis. We hope you will employ this opportunity to decrease your advising workload while enabling more students to pursue international study.

This Academic Integration project offers your department:

- A streamlined study abroad advising process
- Support in archiving records of study abroad courses that have met department requirements in the past
- Creation of a study abroad Web page for your department, including online study abroad advising resources tailored to your major(s)
 - Help in identifying the best timing and courses available abroad to enable your students to graduate on time
 - Clarification of your policies and procedures related to study abroad which will enable more of your majors to take advantage of the many study abroad options available to UCD students.

We encourage all departments to take advantage of the expertise of the EAC staff working on this project. Staff and faculty contacts for this project are Academic Integration Coordinators Joel Shriver (jbshriver@ucdavis.edu or 530-297-4637) and Zachary Frieders (zjfrieders@ucdavis.edu or 530-297-4638), and Peter Schiffman, Faculty Director of the Education Abroad Center (pschiffman@ucdavis.edu or 530-297-4636).

William Lacy
Vice Provost—Office of University Outreach and International Programs

Peter Schiffman
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FAQs about the Academic Integration Project

What is academic integration?

The Office of University Outreach and International Programs (UOIP) and the systemwide office of the Education Abroad Program jointly fund the Academic Integration project. Its goal is to encourage academic departments and colleges to integrate study abroad course work more fully into their curricula for undergraduate students.

Why “academic integration,” now?

This effort is based on a national initiative and model of best practices on other U.S. campuses to encourage students to study abroad. EAP has undertaken major efforts as well. Chancellor Larry Vanderhoef has made the internationalization of UC Davis a top priority in his administration, and this was the topic of the recent Chancellor’s Fall Conference. As faculty and advisors, we understand the value of international experience to a student’s education, yet we also know that many students at UC Davis don’t take advantage of study abroad because the process seems intimidating. The Academic Integration project will make more advising tools available to students and staff to increase access to study abroad for all UC Davis students.

How will academic integration affect the departments and colleges?

The Faculty Director of the Education Abroad Center, Peter Schiffman, and the Academic Integration Coordinators, Joel Shriver and Zachary Frieders, have begun working with faculty and staff in many departments across campus to identify the best ways to present and encourage an “integrated” study abroad plan to students, incorporating their degree and graduation requirements. This may take the form of a Web site developed in collaboration with each department, which can include relevant policies, FAQs, suggested programs and courses abroad, key links for students in the major or college, and printable flyers and handouts. We will also help plan special information sessions for majors co-sponsored by the EAC and UOIP. EAP is working on the development of a large database of courses, similar to ASSIST, which has been pre-approved to meet specific degree requirements.

Does this mean more work for the departments and colleges?

No! In fact, an integral part of the Academic Integration Project is to streamline the study abroad process for department advisors, students and faculty. The EAC staff will do the majority of the work after consultation and close collaboration with the key staff and faculty in each department and college. Ultimately we want to produce information materials that will best suit the department or college’s needs.

Want to learn more?

Contact Academic Integration Coordinator, Joel Shriver (jbshriver@ucdavis.edu or 530-297-4637) and Zachary Frieders (zfrieders@ucdavis.edu or 530-297-4638), or Peter Schiffman, Faculty Director of the Education Abroad Center (pschiffman@ucdavis.edu or 530-297-4636).