



College of Design

“Good designers seek multiple perspectives to reframe problems and create solutions. By visiting other countries, we see wonderful differences in how people live. We taste new food, hear new music, and see myriad styles and methods inherent in people’s clothing, buildings, and parks. We also begin to understand how our histories overlap and how our futures are inevitably intertwined. Participating in other cultures makes us better designers.” –**Carol Strohecker, Dean, College of Design**

History of Curriculum Integration at the University of Minnesota

In the late 1990s, the University of Minnesota (UofM) began a pilot project to test new ways to integrate study abroad into the curriculum. It offered a model for interactions with other academic units. Meanwhile, the UofM leadership placed priority on providing international perspectives as part of the undergraduate experience. Past presidents Mark Yudof and Robert Bruininks enthusiastically supported study abroad as one way to integrate international perspectives into the curriculum. Over the last 20 years, undergraduate experience abroad participation has grown from 861 to over 3,000, and learning abroad as a percentage of degrees granted reached 35% in 2019.

Career Integration

In 2012, the Learning Abroad Center (LAC) developed a campus-wide committee to apply the methodology of Curriculum Integration to a specific focus on career planning. Once again, the LAC partnered with campus colleagues to further integrate studying abroad into career advising structures and articulated individual program outcomes while further assisting students in maximizing career reflection and opportunities on site.

History of Curriculum Integration in the College of Design

“Incorporating study abroad into the professional programs in the college was a challenge that we took on through curriculum integration. Working with our study abroad partners, who took the time to understand our range of tightly sequenced curricula, our advising staff and program faculty reviewed and vetted programs and located opportunities for our students to study abroad, meet program requirements, and stay on track to graduate in four years. Faculty visited programs and worked with the in-country faculty to identify courses, often tweaking offerings to meet our major program requirements.

Soon the Study Abroad Major Advising Sheets were updated to include an academic considerations section and guidance to the programs that would be a best fit, by major. Then the sample Four-Year Plans that guide students through each specific major were enhanced to identify best terms for study abroad. Study abroad became an integrated possibility for students in professional programs, whereas previously, it had been considered an add-on or elective.”

–Kate Maple, Former Assistant Dean, College of Human Ecology and College of Design

Although the funding from the Bush Foundation Grant ran out long ago, the LAC has built a sustainable model that speaks to the success of the innovations that are still part of our work. The College of Design (CDes) continues to collaborate with the LAC to integrate learning abroad into the undergraduate student experience.

As we forge ahead, it's important to recognize the many CDes collaborations: Curriculum integration efforts in the college began more than 20 years ago. The Department of Design, Housing, and Apparel (DHA), then housed in the College of Human Ecology (CHE), participated in an LAC pilot program supported by the Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). The LAC collaborated with DHA faculty and staff to develop Study Abroad Major Advising Sheets (SAMASs), which outlined academic considerations and study abroad programs that would work best for each major to ensure students stayed on track academically. As work with the college continued to expand, in 2008 the LAC developed SAMASs for College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (CALA) and identified programs with courses that met curriculum requirements.

Curriculum Integration Today

Since fall 2019, through a financial partnership with CDes, one LAC staff member has operated in a split position—75% LAC, 25% CDes—allowing them to work with the college's academic advisers, assistant dean, and faculty to further align and develop programmatic

needs. In addition, the LAC academic director works directly to create courses and curricula combining the academic focus of the departments with the strength of education abroad: experiential and intercultural learning to further develop meaningful experiences for students that count toward degree requirements.

Undergraduate Student Participation

Since 1999–2000, undergraduate abroad participation has grown from 53 (CHE) and 21 (CALA) to 127 (CDes) in 2018–19. The College of Design continues its serious commitment to increasing the number of CDes students who study abroad.

Scholarship Information

CDes students regularly receive funding from the Learning Abroad Center. Scholarships awarded include the LAC Study Abroad Scholarship, Financial Need Scholarship, and Diversity Abroad Scholarship.

CDes students are also eligible to apply for the innovative LAC Bridging Loan Program. “This program has made study abroad possible for underrepresented students and highlights a creative solution to an institutional economic barrier,” according to former Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Karen Hanson. Since 2013, more than 240 University of Minnesota students have received funds to cover program deposits and flight booking costs. This enables students to pay for these predeparture costs later with their financial aid package without added interest or fees. In addition, the UofM received an honorable mention for the 2015 Heiskell Award by the Institution of International Education (IIE).

Since the inception of curriculum integration, CDes students also have the opportunity to apply for collegiate scholarships to help reduce their cost of study abroad, regardless of program length. Due to funding specificities, most scholarships are based on the student's major within CDes.

On-Site Program Engagement Opportunities

Since the late 1990s, the Learning Abroad Center has engaged more than 450 campus partners on program reviews, familiarization visits, and program development

opportunities. Of those, 50 participants have come from CDes. Locations visited include Denmark, France, Italy, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

Program Development Based on Curricular Needs

CDes and the LAC have a strong collaboration that includes developing programs abroad focused on freshmen, specific majors, and interdisciplinary programs that broadly serve the college. The LAC has developed interdisciplinary studios in locations worldwide, including Rome and Sicily. The Study & Intern programs are one of the most popular program types for CDes students.

Over the years, faculty have been involved in developing LAC programs in Copenhagen, Denmark; Florence, Rome, and Sicily, Italy; and Istanbul, Turkey.

Since 2000, CDes has offered nearly 100 instructor-led programs abroad.

Locations include:

Argentina, Azerbaijan, Canada, China, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Mexico, Malawi, Netherlands, Tanzania, Turkey, and the United Kingdom

Instructor-led faculty and staff include:

James Boyd Brent	Andrea Johnson
Blaine Brownell	Barry Kudrowitz
Elizabeth Bye	Cynthia Lapp
Arthur Chen	Lance LaVine
Renee Cheng	Jim Lutz
Daniel Clark	Bob Mack
John Comazzi	Steven McCarthy
Vincent deBritto	Heather Nagle
Marilyn DeLong	Lance Neckar
Lucy Dunne	Julia Robinson
Monica Fogg	Ozayr Saloojee
Bruno Frank	Chris Schlichting
Denise Guerin	Marc Swackhamer
Brad Hokanson	Robert Sykes

Rachel Iannacone Benjamin Ibarra Sevilla	Leslie VanDuzer Stephanie Watson-Zollinger
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Additional Faculty & Staff Engagement

Adviser Engagement

LAC adviser training

Student scholarship review

U-Credit Abroad training

Committee Representation

Early curriculum integration efforts

- Freshman/Sophomore Advising Group
- Major Advising Group
- Undergraduate Department and Discipline Representatives

Recent Committee Engagement

- Career Integration Partnership Committee
- Career Integration Partnership Group
- COVID-19 Advising Leads
- Education Abroad Network Advisory Board
- Learning Abroad Center Advisory Committee
- Multicultural Study Abroad Group

Presentations

"Program Update: Design in Sicily."

January 2021 Learning Abroad Center Annual Meeting

James Boyd Brent and Gayla Lindt, Presenters

"Inclusion and Student Dynamics."

November 2018 Excellence in Leading Programs Abroad Series

Virajita Singh, Presenter

"Curriculum and Career Integration of Learning Abroad."

August 2015 Summit for Learning Abroad

Kate Maple, Co-Presenter

"Creating a Learning Abroad Syllabus."

September 2015 Excellence in Leading Programs Abroad Series

Monica Fogg, Presenter

"Career Integration Workshops Onsite."

2015 Career Development Network, Minneapolis, MN

Sara Newberg, Co-Presenter

"Learning Abroad Groupies: Converting Career Professionals to Ambassadors of Learning Abroad Programs."

2014 Career Integration Conference, Minneapolis, MN

Sara Newberg, Co-Presenter

"Planning, Implementing, and Sustaining Curriculum Integration of Education Abroad."

November 2013 CIEE Annual Conference, Pre-conference Workshop, Minneapolis

Kate Maple, Co-Presenter

"Curriculum Integration of Education Abroad."

August 2013 Summit for Learning Abroad, Minneapolis, MN

James Boyd Brent and Kate Maple, Presenters

"Freshman Seminars Abroad."

December 2013 LAC Annual Update Meeting

Monica Fogg, Presenter

"Major Specific Advising Materials: Collaborations, Production, and Use."

2004 Curriculum Integration Conference, Minneapolis, MN

Kim Hindbjorgen, Co-Presenter

Publications

Hindbjorgen, Kim. "Major-specific Advising Materials: Collaboration, Production, and Use." *Internationalizing Undergraduate Education: Integrating Study Abroad into the Curriculum*, Minneapolis, MN: The Learning Abroad Center, Office for International Programs, University of Minnesota, 2005.

Maple, Kate. "Curriculum Integration and Professional Programs."

Internationalizing Undergraduate Education: Integrating Study Abroad into the Curriculum,

Minneapolis, MN: The Learning Abroad Center, Office for International Programs, University of Minnesota, 2005.

Newberg, Sara et al. (2015): "Career Integration Onsite Workshops," in Career Integration: in C. Anderson, J. Christian, K. Hindbjorgen, C. Jambor-Smith, M. Johnson, & M. Woolf, eds., Career Integration: Reviewing the Impact of Experience Abroad on Employment, pps. 53-56, Learning Abroad Center, University of Minnesota and CAPA International Education Publications, Boston, MA.

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