



Learning Abroad Center

Custom Programs

Activities, Responsibilities & Timeline

Fall Semester Programs

Purpose of Custom Programs

Custom programs are designed to allow University of Minnesota colleges and academic departments to provide study abroad opportunities that fulfill unique academic objectives. The Learning Abroad Center provides faculty with the professional and administrative support that allows them to take advantage of unique environments and pedagogical opportunities. Custom programs are a joint effort between the Learning Abroad Center and academic units. In addition to the responsibilities listed below, faculty that intend to lead a learning abroad program must attend a workshop offered through the Learning Abroad Center that addresses program design, accessing international resources, budget planning, U of M learning abroad policies and procedures, student conduct issues, risk, and liability management and other fundamentals of learning abroad program leadership.

New Programs

When	Who	What
December	Faculty leader	Contacts Custom Program Director to discuss potential custom program.
January	All	Meet to discuss procedures, responsibilities, and timeline.
February	Faculty leader	Submits custom program proposal, which includes the following: program title, term, location, program description including objectives, use of site, and tentative on-site support resources, indication of departmental/chair support.
March	Custom Program Director	Review proposal and make recommendation for approval or non-approval. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If approved, department chair or dean is notified • If not approved, faculty leader is provided with rationale and/or suggestions

New and On-Going Programs

When	Who	What
March	Faculty leader	Finalizes course content and plans for logistical support.
March	Faculty leader	Provides Custom Program Director with the <i>Custom Program Information Form</i> .
April	Custom Program Director	Drafts <i>Letter of Understanding</i> (LOU) and forwards to the faculty member for signature.
April	Faculty member, Custom Program Director	Promotes program to targeted audiences.
May	Faculty leader	Returns both copies of the LOU with appropriate signatures to Learning Abroad Center. The LOU must also contain all necessary departmental account numbers for billing purposes.
May	Custom Program Director	obtains appropriate Learning Abroad Center signatures and returns one LOU to the faculty leader and submits remaining LOU to the Learning Abroad Center Finance Director.
June	Participants	Obtains application packets from the Learning Abroad Center's web site.

When	Who	What
July	Faculty leader	Collects completed application forms from students including the <i>Confirmation and Payment Agreement</i> forms for payment of program confirmation deposit.
July	Faculty leader	Screens and accepts students to the program.
July	Faculty leader	Returns a copy of each student's <i>Study Abroad Application, Release and Waiver</i> form, <i>Confirmation and Payment Agreement</i> form and all non-University of Minnesota forms to the Custom Program Director.
July	Custom Program Director	Processes student forms including student billing.
July	Faculty leader	Consults with Custom Program Director contact to set date and time of pre-departure.
July	Faculty leader, Custom Program Director	Conducts pre-departure orientation.
July	Custom Program Director	Bills students for program fee (minus deposit). These funds go directly into a departmental account.
Upon program completion	Participants	Completes the online <i>Study Abroad Evaluation Form</i> provided by the Learning Abroad Center.
Within two weeks of program completion	Faculty leader	Submits all grades to department, as instructed by the Office of the Registrar. Failure to do this will result in delays of getting accurate program completion courses/grades on transcripts for students.
Within one month of program completion	Custom Program Director	Shares program evaluation summaries with faculty leader.

Learning Abroad Center

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