MiraCosta College supports international education in order that students may become productive citizens in a diverse and dynamic world. The college offers a variety of international education programs (through study-abroad consortia), experiences, and initiatives for both students and faculty.

These may range from field excursions, short-term courses on single subjects, or to regular semesters of instruction comprising a full-time academic load. All are designed to increase multicultural awareness, enhance global consciousness, understand global issues, teach curricula that encompass world cultures and perspectives, and encourage faculty and students to participate in international experiences.

To support international education, as resources permit, MiraCosta College will:

A. Develop areas of study across the curriculum to increase students' understanding of global issues and cultural differences.

B. Offer courses in languages other than English to train students to communicate effectively in other cultures and to enhance their understanding of other nations' values.

C. Provide opportunities for students to participate in study-abroad programs to enrich their academic training, perspectives, and personal development.

D. Provide opportunities for domestic and international students and faculty to interact effectively, and to routinely share their views, perceptions, and experiences in educational settings.

E. Develop innovative public educational forums and venues to explore global issues and showcase world cultures.

F. Facilitate partnership programs with institutions in other countries.

G. Support collaborative undertakings to address issues of global significance.

The Vice President, Instructional Services, will determine the scope of international education programs, experiences, and initiatives and must approve the following:

A. Any agreements with groups of community colleges to offer international education programs through study-abroad consortia.
B. Any full-time faculty member’s assignment to teach a semester abroad.

C. Any travel across international borders.

D. Annual updates to the International Education Handbook.

**Study-Abroad Programs**

Students participating in regular semester-length study-abroad programs through study-abroad consortia must have at least twelve (12) credit hours of college coursework completed and must have earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher (except when approved by consortia agreement).

Travel and host-country accommodations for study-abroad programs will be provided through contracts with commercial vendors that meet standards of excellence and reputable service as determined by the college.

**International Education Courses and Excursions**

Courses developed or adapted specifically for international education must be approved by Courses and Programs and must be as rigorous as any offered on campus. In particular, the curriculum should foster and enhance international perspectives, increase fluency in foreign languages (when relevant), and promote understanding of the host culture. These courses must be approved in accordance with Educational Code and Title 5 regulations and be taught by faculty members meeting the minimum qualifications for providing instruction.

Department colleagues may work together to investigate international education opportunities they may wish to pursue. Faculty should discuss their plans with their department chair and secure support from their dean prior to presenting their proposal to the Vice President, Instructional Services, for consideration. The Vice President, Instructional Services, must approve any international-education initiative or program.

International excursions must comply with Board Policy/Administrative Procedure 4300, Field Trips and Excursions.

**International Education Handbook**

The International Education Handbook will be maintained by the Institute for International Perspectives.

This manual will include, but will not be limited to, such topics as: (1) application procedures and participation criteria for students in international education programs, (2) selection process for faculty to participate in international-education programs, (3) faculty responsibilities when teaching abroad, (4) security and safety measures, (5) students’ responsibilities when studying abroad, (6) outreach and promotional activities for international-education programs, (7) orientation activities for students in study-abroad programs, (8) standards for evaluating study-abroad programs, contractors, and providers, including inspection trips, and (9) step-by-step procedures for preparation and approval for any international excursions, in compliance with Board Policy/Administrative Procedure 4300, Field Trips and Excursions.
Students participating in international education experiences must be enrolled at MiraCosta College or a consortium-member institution. The college considers all international activities to be part of a learning experience, and each participant to be an ambassador of MiraCosta College. Therefore, students, staff, and faculty participating in international education, including study abroad, educational excursions, or field study, must obey all civil and criminal laws of any country visited and must comply with the district’s board policies and administrative procedures.