

MiraCosta College supports international education to provide a comprehensive educational experience that empowers students to make reasoned decisions in both the international and domestic contexts through the use of critical analysis informed by a globalized perspective. The college offers a variety of international education programs that are designed to develop and enrich multicultural awareness, intercultural competence, and understanding of global issues and trends through curricula that encompass world cultures and perspectives and programs that encourage participation in international experiences.

MiraCosta College will strive to accomplish the following:

- A. Develop courses of study in as many fields as possible 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 international contexts and to enhance their understanding of other cultures.
- C. Provide opportunities for students to participate in study abroad programs and/or virtual international exchanges to enrich their academic training, perspectives, and personal development.
- D. Develop and provide opportunities for all MiraCosta College students and faculty to engage and interact with students abroad to share their views, perceptions, and experiences in life.
- E. Develop innovative public educational forums and venues to explore global issues and showcase world cultures.
- F. Recruit and retain qualified students and scholars from other countries to inspire an appreciation for differences among cultures and a deeper understanding of the values and perspectives of other people.
- G. Facilitate faculty exchange and collaborative partnership programs with institutions in other countries.
- H. Initiate collaborative research undertakings to address issues of global significance.

- I. Recruit and retain the world's best and brightest faculty to educate MiraCostaCollege students as globally competent citizens.
- J. Accomplish all the above stated goals adopting equity-minded practices that work toward the MiraCosta College commitment of closing the equity gap.

Study Abroad Program Requirements

The vice president of instructional services and vice president of student services must approve international education programs, experiences, and initiatives such as the following:

- A. Any agreements with groups of community colleges to offer international education courses and/or programs through study abroad consortia.
- B. Any full-time faculty member's assignment to teach a semester abroad.
- C. Any travel across international borders for educational programs.
- D. International excursions must comply with Board Policy/Administrative Procedure 4300, Field Trips and Excursions.

Additionally, the Board of Trustees must approve all international employee travel, per Board Policy 7400, Employee Travel.

Students participating in semester-length study abroad programs must have at least 12 credit hours of college coursework completed and must have earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher (except in cases where a lower-GPA is part of an approved consortia agreement or partnership).

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 developed or adapted specifically for international education must be approved by the Courses and Programs Committee 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 Education 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 members should discuss their plans with their department chair and secure support from their dean prior to presenting their proposal to the vice president of instructional services for consideration.

Students participating in international education experiences must be enrolled at MiraCosta College or at a consortium-member or partner institution. Students enrolling in study abroad experiences must be over the age of 18 (unless they are emancipated minors). 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.

International Education Guidelines

The International Office (IO) provides support for faculty and students interested in study abroad programs. The IO and International Education Advisory Committee also maintains a list of procedures and guidelines that outlines how to design, promote, and operate a study abroad program approved by the district. Faculty members are encouraged to talk to the Student Services Coordinator for study abroad and/or the International Education Advisory Committee about any questions concerning study abroad opportunities and requirements.