

**Faculty Led
Study Abroad
Handbook**

*Study
Abroad*

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for committing to facilitate a study abroad program for University of North Texas students. One of the primary goals of the Study Abroad Office (SAO) is to provide UNT students with access to transformative, international learning experiences and these opportunities would not be possible without your dedication as a Faculty Leader.

SAO is committed to offering programs that meet student expectations of academic rigor, safety, personal/professional development, affordability, and accessibility. Thus, SAO is charged with supporting the faculty, partner universities, and affiliated partners around the world who help to develop programs aimed at meeting these needs.

Through your efforts, UNT provides students the chance to gain a broader and richer understanding of the world by studying abroad. Your commitment to facilitating a study abroad program will give you the opportunity to reach students in new and exciting ways. You will serve not only as a professor, but also as an advisor, a cultural liaison, in some instances a disciplinarian, and a variety of other roles during your time abroad.

This handbook is designed to prepare you for this responsibility and provide you with the information you need to design and implement a successful program in accordance with UNT guidelines and policies. It is intended for both first-time and continuing Faculty Leaders. SAO will be your partner throughout your time as a Faculty Leader, and this handbook will help you learn more about the resources available to you.

We strongly encourage you to read this document carefully and have it on hand as a reference to answer questions that will come up throughout the year. SAO will often refer back to information contained within this handbook throughout the program development and implementation phases to ensure all parties are working toward and achieving program goals. SAO will also offer additional resources, such as workshops, updated forms, and reference materials, to improve the program proposal and development process.

We ask that you confirm that you have read and understand your commitment, as outlined in this document, as part of your program proposal. Also keep in mind that although never desired, a program may be cancelled or amended if timelines, guidelines or policies are not met.

We wish you a safe and rewarding experience abroad with your students!

Sincerely,

The UNT Study Abroad Office Staff

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Please Note: SAO reserves the right to modify the information included in this handbook. This handbook may also be modified due to changes in laws, accreditation compliance, procedures, and policies out of the control of SAO. SAO will do its best to update information in a timely manner and notify faculty and staff of changes, but it is ultimately up to each individual UNT employee to ensure they are following all university procedures. As a condition of employment, it is the responsibility of all UNT faculty and staff to ensure that they are in compliance with laws and policies at all times.

DEVELOPING A SUCCESSFUL FACULTY LED PROGRAM

Faculty Led Program Models

As faculty approach the idea of developing a faculty led program abroad, it is important for faculty to review the program models offered by SAO to ascertain which model is the best fit for what the faculty is hoping to achieve with their program. SAO offers three main program models:

- **TRADITIONAL FACULTY LED PROGRAMS**

This program model is ideal for faculty who have a strong sense of which international destination is appropriate for their academic content and/or prior experience in the host country. This program model is highly customizable to the faculty's vision and goals for the program. These programs typically travel during the Summer or Winter Sessions and a minimum of 51% of the academic contact hours must be delivered abroad.

Hybrid Programs

Some locations and partners run existing summer schools in which our faculty and students can be absorbed, or we can outsource a second course delivered by the local partner for transfer credit. This gives students the ability to meet other students from other U.S. universities, meet local students, and earn six credits allowing for them to have access to UNT summer aid. UNT students take a three credit UNT course with UNT faculty, but they also get to choose a three credit transfer course from a menu of several options or a customized course for our group taught by faculty from the host institution.

- **EAGLES ABROAD PROGRAMS**

Another type of faculty led programming model, but one in which SAO has already established relationships with international organizations or host institutions in set locations. SAO solicits faculty to complete applications to teach a UNT course to a group of UNT students at one of these pre-set locations. This program model is ideal for new faculty leaders or those with limited experience in the destination as there is very strong support from the host organization or institution for student services, pre-set cultural activities and co-curricular programming, and housing. These programs travel during the Summer and 100% of the contact hours must be delivered abroad.

Hybrid Programs

A sub-set of our Eagles Abroad Programs. Some of our pre-set locations and partners run existing summer schools in which our faculty and students can be absorbed. This gives students the ability to meet other students from other U.S. universities, meet local students, and earn six credits allowing for them to have access to UNT summer aid. UNT students take a three credit UNT course with UNT faculty, but they also get to choose a three credit transfer course from a menu of several options taught by faculty from the host institution.

- **GLOBAL INTENSIVE OPPORTUNITY (GIO)**

This is our most accessible and inclusive faculty led program model. These are shorter, intensive field experiences abroad. They are run as zero-credit pass/no pass courses, so while the program will be transcribed as such, students save on not having to pay tuition for this program model. These programs are typically 8-12 days in length. These optional, intensive field experiences abroad must be tied to a credit-bearing parent course and could also be tied to additional credit-bearing secondary courses where the field experience complements what has been learned during the previous semesters or current semester in the primary and secondary courses. This program model is ideal for faculty who want to offer an abroad experience to a wider variety of UNT students such as our non-traditional students, graduate students, and students who have work, internship, or family obligations. This program model has the most flexibility and can run during Summer and Winter Sessions, but also Spring Break, or during the semester with the appropriate permissions. Instructional contact hours are limited as this model is more focused on the faculty facilitating and making the linkages between the students' parent or secondary courses and experiencing it in the field.

Elements of a Strong Proposal

Many factors go into the creation of a strong proposal, regardless of the student audience or type of program. The categories below provide a broad overview of the elements SAO seeks in strong proposals.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

UNT courses delivered overseas must adhere to the same high standards of content, delivery, and assessment as courses taught on campus. Courses abroad should take advantage of the program location and enable students to connect with unique aspects of the foreign culture and society of the nation or region. Proposed excursions or field trips must have academic relevance to the course. Enhancing the academic experience of student participants is the primary purpose of these Faculty led programs, therefore faculty research should take place only in programs where students participate in and contribute to the research project.

FISCAL AND BUDGETARY RESPONSIBILITY

Cost is one of the biggest barriers for UNT students interested in studying abroad. All SAO-administered and approved programs aim to provide the highest quality program at the most conservative cost; therefore, program costs and inclusions are carefully considered during the review process.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

The primary concern when administering programs abroad is the safety and security of our students, faculty, and staff. UNT recognizes that some areas of the world present heightened health and safety risks and uses a number of resources, including the Department of State, the Centers for Disease Control and intelligence services provided through our insurers, to identify

regions that require special efforts to mitigate an elevated level of risk or call for the avoidance of travel altogether when necessary.

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Faculty led programs are intended to provide greater access to study abroad opportunities for UNT students. Ideally, a broad offering of programs increases the variety of students studying abroad and reflects the diversity of UNT's campus. Faculty led programs provide a needed option for students in certain majors, with limited time or finances available for study abroad, or who would feel more comfortable traveling with a UNT program. Programs may also serve as an opportunity to enhance UNT's academic reputation by integrating qualified non-UNT students from peer institutions or professionals seeking continuing education opportunities as transient student participants.

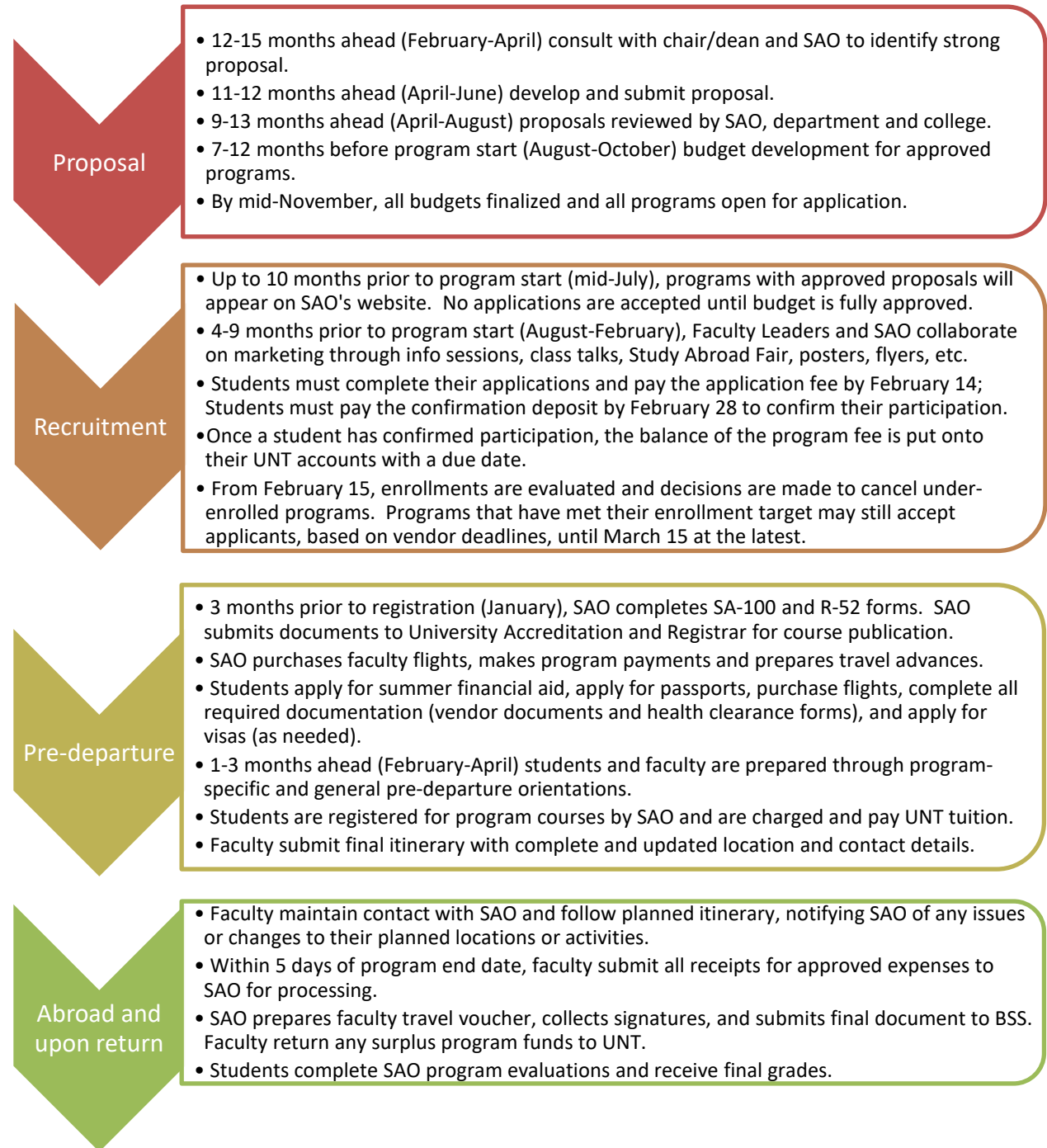
LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS

A successful proposal also includes several factors that make it likely for the program to recruit the minimum number of participants needed to run the program. Reviewers consider the following elements when assessing a program's likelihood of success:

- Relevance of the academic topic and usefulness of course(s) toward degree completion
- An adequate pool of students from which to draw
- Reasonable cost to implement the program
- A clear vision of the program itself (how the location connects to course content and can be best utilized to maximize students' experiences abroad)
- Feedback from past participants via program evaluations

TYPICAL TIMELINE FOR PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

This timeline applies to summer programs. If you are proposing a program in a different term, the same timeline applies, but the months/dates will vary.



OVERVIEW OF RESPONSIBILITIES

	Faculty Leaders and Program Staff	Study Abroad Office (SAO)
Academic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discuss proposal with department/college ▪ Develop an academically sound syllabus with assessable student learning outcomes in accordance with UNT guidelines and policies ▪ Submit a detailed program proposal by the deadline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaborate with Faculty Leader on program development ▪ Facilitate program approvals ▪ Educate on UNT guidelines and policies related to study abroad ▪ Submit required university course documents to Registrar for course creation (EX: SA-100)
Programmatic and Budget Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop an itinerary and list of program services and needs to request from vendors ▪ Evaluate quotes from vendors collected by SAO ▪ Include SAO in any direct communication with vendors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommend vendors with site-specific expertise and request and evaluate quotes from suitable vendors ▪ Develop accurate, cost-conscious program budget ▪ Negotiate and facilitate all program contracts and agreements
Recruitment/ Advising/ Marketing Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruit students for program in a variety of ways ▪ Respond to interested students ▪ Provide text/images (open sourced or images taken personally only) for online brochure ▪ Evaluate program applicants in a timely and consistent way 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Broadly recruit for all study abroad programs advising students on best program fit to meet academic goals ▪ Develop program-specific print materials and online brochures ▪ Advise students on application process ▪ Provide Faculty Leaders recruitment opportunities like fairs and tabling events
Student Orientations & Pre-Departure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sign and return all travel documents prepared by SAO promptly ▪ Attend required faculty pre-departure training session ▪ Hold program-specific pre-departure and on-site orientations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hold general student orientations ▪ Prepare required travel documents for faculty and program staff ▪ Pay all vendors according to contracts and transfer faculty salary to department for payment ▪ Coordinate required faculty pre-departure training with relevant university partners
Miscellaneous (including On-Site & Post-Program)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Respond to issues that arise abroad and contact SAO/UNT for guidance/assistance as appropriate ▪ Report any medical or disciplinary incidents to SAO ▪ Assess student learning outcomes by submitting grades ▪ Turn in accurate and timely travel vouchers/receipts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set deadlines and remind faculty and students of critical dates ▪ Track and share program enrollments ▪ Determine program cancellations and notify faculty, students and colleges ▪ Collect student application fees, deposits, program fees, and cancellation penalties ▪ Process student withdrawals and refunds ▪ Reconcile faculty travel requests

Academic Guidelines

ON TIME AND COMPLETE PROPOSALS

- Proposals must be complete and turned in by the deadline for the appropriate term.
- Proposals should be as detailed as possible and accurately reflect the intended final program.
- Modifications may be made after proposal submission based on feedback from SAO and the academic unit, but repeated or significant changes will delay budget approval and marketing material development, shortening the faculty leader's recruitment cycle.

REQUIRED APPROVALS

- Programs are subject to approval by the Director of Study Abroad, the sponsoring department chair(s), and the sponsoring college dean(s). Program proposals will be sent to Chairs and Deans for approval on a rolling basis.
- Faculty Leaders will be asked to update their proposal should any significant portion of the program change (i.e. addition of support faculty/staff, change in Faculty Leaders, significant changes to course content, excursions or program activities). Changes must be approved by the SAO director, the department chair(s) and the college dean(s).

RENEWAL OF ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS

- Established programs that are offered every year may be renewed for up to two additional years, or for one additional year if the program is offered every other year, through a simplified proposal process assuming no change to location, faculty, or academic design. All programs will be required to complete the full proposal process after three years.

HIGH RISK DESTINATIONS

- The safety of study abroad participants is the primary concern in the evaluation of programs. If the risk, including risk to a sub-population of students, associated with travel to or within a destination cannot be mitigated, the program will not be approved. High risk destinations are defined and evaluated by UNT's International Risk Oversight Committee (IROC).
- Students participating in programs determined to be high risk will be required to acknowledge the risk associated with their program and confirm that they have reviewed additional health and safety information on their program location.
- Programs may be cancelled or modified if significant risks develop after approval at the discretion of SAO and IROC.

PROGRAM STAFFING

For Risk Management purposes, each program must be adequately staffed to respond to an emergency involving a student, faculty, or staff member.

- The program proposal should be completed by the primary faculty leader. Most communication regarding program development and the proposal will be directed to the primary faculty leader who will be responsible for communicating program details to program co-leaders or support staff. SAO will communicate general information to all faculty and program staff through email and pre-departure training.
- All programs must include at least two dedicated on-site faculty and/or staff who are jointly responsible for the logistical responsibilities and who serve as 24/7 health and safety resources for students. Programs may be staffed with one UNT faculty and one UNT staff or non-teaching faculty. Alternately, programs may be staffed with one UNT faculty and a dedicated local program assistant

serving in the same capacity and hired by SAO or the contracted on-site vendor provider/host university.

- Non-teaching faculty or staff are expected to fully participate in all program activities in support of the faculty leader, except for classroom lectures.
- Faculty/staff not paid through an administrative salary for this role may be compensated via task payment at a weekly rate of \$500 (pro-rated) plus airfare, lodging, per diem (equal to faculty leader rate/up to 50% of DOS foreign rate), and the cost of participation in all required program activities.
- SAO recommends one Faculty Leader per 10-20 students in a course. If the course is intended to serve more than 20 students, you may consider including a second section/faculty member. Any staffing increases based on higher than expected final enrollment must be approved by the SAO Director and sponsoring college(s). Typically, a program with 24+ students will generate enough additional tuition to cover most expenses for a second faculty member.
- Each program is required to designate a back-up faculty/administrator available to join the program in case of an emergency that prevents the faculty leader from fulfilling their leadership responsibilities. Under most circumstances, risk management funds will cover the travel expenses associated with replacing the faculty/administrator at the program site.
- Adjunct faculty may not lead a program but may be hired as support faculty or non-teaching faculty (adjunct assistant category) at the discretion of the sponsoring college/school. In rare cases (such as replacing a faculty leader on an emergency basis), a college may approve an exception to this rule.

FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as Amended (FERPA) applies to all conversations about students, even during the marketing/recruitment stage. FERPA regulates all information, including academic, disciplinary, and medical. Given the sensitive information you will be privy to, a signed FERPA acknowledgement form for each Faculty Leader must be on file with the Registrar's Office. If a Faculty Leader does not yet have one on file, the mini-course and form can be found at: <https://ferpa.unt.edu/>

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD (THECB) STANDARDS

Each UNT course taught abroad must meet **Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB)**

Standards for New Out-of-State and Out-of-Country Courses, downloadable at:

[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=19&pt=1&ch=4&sch=Q&rl=Y](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=19&pt=1&ch=4&sch=Q&rl=Y)

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Programs must:

- Have clear Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes (SLOs) listed in the syllabus that relate to departmental/college goals. SLOs should be measurable and be assessed within the course, in accordance with all UNT standards.
- Be academically sound and centered around an educational experience.
- Comply with accreditation requirements applicable to the department/college and UNT.

RATIONALE FOR LOCATION AND PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The syllabus should outline a clear rationale for each program location in relation to the academic content. All program activities and excursions must serve an academic purpose. No university funds, for student or faculty participation, should be spent on non-program activities during free time.

PROGRAM DATES AND DURATION

- The term of the program (3WK, 5WK1, 5WK2, Winter Session, etc.) is determined by the start and end date of the program. Total program duration must allow time to complete contact hours, assigned reading, and assignments. For summer programs, faculty may choose a longer term that allows

students time to complete final assignments following travel. For winter programs where this is not possible, faculty may assign participants a grade of “incomplete” with a later deadline for submitting final assignments.

- Programs must meet the required contact hour requirement within the designated term dates. For example, programs tied to the summer 5WK1 term may not meet online or in person prior to or following the start and end dates of that term.
- Programs with online or on campus meeting time are subject to the same program duration requirements as any other program but must also complete 51% or more of their instructional time abroad.
- Programs must include at least one non-instructional day per week within every seven days abroad.
- **Three credit programs must be minimum of 15 days from departure to return** including 2 international travel days, 11 instructional days, and 2 non-instructional free days.
- **Six credit programs must be a minimum of 28 days from departure to return** including 2 international travel days, 22 instructional days and 4 non-instructional free days.
- **Zero credit programs must a minimum of 8 days from departure to return** including 2 international travel days, 5 facilitated experiential days, and 1 full free day.
- Faculty should plan to provide students with a syllabus outlining reading assignments no later than the first day of the designated term. Faculty also have the flexibility to hold the final exam or require submission of a final project or paper as late as the last day of the term. Students benefit from having the full term to complete reading assignments, projects, and test preparation, regardless of the travel dates of the program.

CONTACT HOURS

- All courses offered in a shortened format will consist of the same number of contact hours (45-48 per 3 credit course) as courses offered on campus. Pre- or post-travel class sessions (within the term) may be scheduled to attain the required instructional contact hours.
- Non-lecture instructional contact hours (fieldwork, excursions, walking tours, site visits, service learning activities, etc.) may be counted toward the required number of instructional contact hours if the faculty leader satisfactorily explains how these activities contribute to the learning objectives of the course(s) at a 2:1 ratio (i.e. 2 hours of activity time equals 1 instructional contact hour).
- Travel time and non-academic program orientation may not be counted towards the required number of instructional contact hours.

MAXIMUM COURSE LOAD AT UNT

The UNT course catalog outlines the maximum number of Semester Credit Hours (SCH) that can be offered during each term, which must be taken into consideration when designing a program. UNT’s full policy can be found at: http://catalog.unt.edu/content.php?catoid=5&navoid=241#Student_Load

NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS & RELATIONSHIP TO FINANCIAL AID

During the program planning stage, faculty leaders may want to consider the financial aid implications for students based on the number of Semester Credit Hours (SCHs) that a program offers. Financial aid thresholds are set by the U.S. Department of Education; please refer to UNT Student Financial Aid and Scholarships for full details: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/>

Students must maintain at least a half-time class load at UNT (during fall, spring, and across collective summer terms – Undergraduates: 6 SCH; Graduates: 5 SCH) and demonstrate satisfactory academic progress to be eligible for financial aid.

COURSE PAPERWORK

SAO will work with Faculty Leaders to complete the course documents (SA-100, SA-100 addendum, R-52) to be sent to the departments/colleges for final signature before they are submitted to University Accreditation and the Registrar.

STUDENT REGISTRATION PROCESS

Registration by “Class Permission” will be requested for each course on the SA-100 forms. The Study Abroad Office will register students based on course selection indicated via the student application portal.

Program Development

COMMITMENT TO AFFORDABILITY

SAO supports access to study abroad opportunities for all interested students who are eligible to participate, but one of the top barriers for students to study abroad is cost. In order to minimize the financial barriers for students, SAO emphasizes the importance of minimizing student costs during the development of program budgets. Below are some factors to consider when developing a new program:

- **Does the significance of the proposed program location justify the cost?**
When addressing this question, consider the importance of the connection between the program’s location and learning outcomes. Other factors include student interest in the location, the availability of support services, and the relative cost and ease of transportation, housing, and activities. SAO staff may be able to recommend alternate program locations that reduce costs without sacrificing program goals.
- **Do the proposed excursions further the academic goals of the program?**
Costly tourist excursions needlessly increase the program fee and deter students with limited financial resources. Unless they are strongly tied to the program’s academic goals, tourist activities should not be included in the program. Instead, students should be given free time to explore these opportunities independently and at their own expense.
- **Can the academic goals of the program be accomplished in one destination versus multiple locations?**
Moving between multiple program sites adds significant logistical expenses and limits a vendor’s ability to negotiate housing discounts for longer stays. Some programs truly require multiple sites for academic reasons, but many can achieve their learning outcomes staying within one city and taking day trips to other locations if necessary.
- **Does the anticipated number of students, location, and/or logistics justify the number of faculty and/or support staff?**
A very low student-to-faculty ratio often creates an undue cost burden on student participants. In addition, fixed costs like classroom and bus rental or fees for guest lecturers and tour guides are costly when divided among a small number of students. It’s important to have enough faculty/staff to offer a safe, well run program at a reasonable price.

LOGISTICS PLANNING

SAO and Faculty Leaders work together to identify on-site partners best suited for the location and academic needs of the program. Most faculty led study abroad programs contract with a vendor to handle the majority of on-site logistics, while a few contract with a university and/or a combination of academic contacts, local experts, and travel agents. Major factors in the selection of on-site partners include the Faculty Leader’s experience and professional network in the location, the difficulty of running a program in that location, the availability of local experts, the ability to offer 24-hour emergency support, and

maintain liability insurance equal to or greater than \$1,000,000. A Faculty Leader may be the primary contact for a vendor who they have an existing relationship with, but SAO should always be looped in on discussions in order to ensure that university purchasing guidelines are followed. While SAO is open to working with faculty contacts abroad, we will still do our due diligence by vetting any new organizations, institutions, or vendors proposed.

CONTRACTS & AGREEMENTS

It is the responsibility of SAO to manage agreements and contracts for study abroad programs on behalf of the University and all contracts must be signed in accordance with UNT procedures. Services for a fee agreements are signed by UNT System's Office of Contract Administration and academic agreements are signed by the Provost. Having an active academic agreement with a host institution or organization abroad does not circumvent the need for an executed services agreement for a faculty led program with that host institution. **Faculty Leaders, the SAO Director, chairs, and deans may not sign any contracts or agreements committing UNT resources as they do not have signature authority.**

When program logistics depend on the professional connections of the Faculty Leader, SAO should be included in program-related correspondence so that a formal written agreement can be reviewed and signed by UNT. In addition, SAO should have the contact information of all businesses, individuals, and back-ups that perform services for the program. Faculty Leaders must fully disclose any relationships with business partners that might exist in accordance with university policy on conflict of interest and nepotism.

- **Purchasing Contracts:** All contracts signed for purchasing purposes must be in compliance with UNT guidelines and will be routed by SAO through UNT System's Office of Finance and reviewed and signed by the Office of Contract Administration. All contracts must be submitted in English or with appropriate translation.
- **Agreements/MOUs:** All academic agreements/MOUs/MOAs with international partners will be developed through International Affairs' Director of Global Partnerships and signed by the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

PROGRAM BUDGETS

Faculty led program costs include tuition (if credit bearing), limited university fees, and a program fee:

- **Tuition:** Students will be required to pay UNT tuition (including both state-mandated and board-designated portions) and applicable fees for all UNT courses associated with study abroad programs. Tuition is paid at each student's typical in-state or out-of-state level. The Office of the Provost funds the faculty leader salary, international flight, lodging, and per diem based on the tuition generated by the number of students on the program. Additional faculty leader expenses are divided among the students as part of their program fee (local transportation, entrance fees, supplies, communication resources, etc.).
- **Fees:** Students pay applicable mandatory and instructional fees, set by the University, except for the fees students are exempt from if they are not taking courses on campus (recreational center fee, etc.).
- **Program Fee:** Students are billed a program fee via their student account. Program fees cover all program inclusions, such as lodging, excursions, local transportation, group meals, or other program-related expenses. It may also include tuition and fees for additional transfer coursework and the cost of including non-teaching support staff in the program (flight, housing, per diem, and stipend).

SETTING ENROLLMENT NUMBERS

Because program fees are determined based on the anticipated cost of running a program with a target number of students, SAO requires a minimum enrollment of students per program. **The minimum**

enrollment is finalized by SAO with the sponsoring department/college as part of the budget approval process and does not change based on actual enrollment. Established programs with a proven record of enrollment may be required to meet a higher minimum to reduce the per student cost. Maximum program enrollment should also be established based on the program vendor's logistical capacity.

- **Minimum Enrollments:** The minimum enrollment for any program is ten (10); however, the budget process will set the true minimum for a program. In addition, colleges/departments may require higher minimum enrollment at their discretion. Programs typically require at least 14 students to cover faculty expenses with no reductions.
- **Who is Considered "Enrolled" and When:** Students who have been accepted by the Faculty Leader as a participant in their program and have paid their \$100 Application Fee and \$200 Confirmation Deposit by the program's confirmation deadline are considered enrolled.
- **Meeting Minimum Enrollments:** SAO reserves the right to cancel a program that fails to meet its minimum enrollment. The university will not subsidize under-enrolled programs and any financial deficit is the ultimate deciding factor determining the status of a program. SAO will make a final determination in consultation with the sponsoring College/Department and the Faculty Leader.
 - If a program fails to meet the minimum enrollment by the initial application deadline, but has recruited at least 50% of the target number, the Faculty Leader may meet with SAO to determine whether the deadline may be extended if there is no financial risk to UNT. Program deadlines are typically extended two weeks at a time, if the vendor contracts allow.
 - For programs that do not meet the minimum enrollment set in the budget but still exceed the absolute minimum enrollment required by the Provost (ten students), faculty may request to revisit the budget and modify the program to run with fewer students. Budget revision is contingent on the deadlines and flexibility of vendors. It is SAO's preference to plan for this scenario when finalizing the initial budget. SAO will make suggestions on ways to reduce the minimum number of students required to run a program, which typically involves the faculty taking a reduction in salary with the understanding that with every additional student participant enrolled over the minimum, reduced salaries made by the Faculty Leader will be restored by SAO. This allows SAO to approach the possibility of not achieving the minimum number of students required to run the program proactively rather than reactively during a very busy time in the programs cycle.
 - Once a program has successfully met its minimum enrollment and is confirmed to run, any students who withdraw will be charged a cancellation fee to cover the impact of their withdrawal even if this occurs prior to the original deadline. Faculty are encouraged to recruit beyond the minimum number required to allow for program attrition and thus reduce the need to assess higher cancellation charges.
 - SAO, in collaboration with the college/department, makes the final decision in all budgetary matters.

FACULTY LEADER SALARY FOR TRADITIONAL AND EAGLES ABROAD PROGRAM MODELS

Faculty Leader compensation is governed by several university and state rules:

- Faculty Leader salaries are covered by the Office of the Provost, not their department. Salaries for summer and winter session study abroad programs reference, but do not fully align with, the Summer School Compensation Plan – see "Study Abroad Compensation." This information can be accessed at <https://vpaa.unt.edu/faculty-resources/recruitment-and-compensation/compensation-summer>.
- Salaries will be set using the published list of salaries provided by the Office of the Provost at the time the budget is developed. The faculty salary (indicated in the signed budget) remains the same regardless of any changes to the base salary by the start of the program.

- Salary or Task Payments may not be paid to faculty who receive an annual administrative salary unless a formal request is made to Academic Resources with Dean or Provost approval. Salary or Task Payments may not be paid to staff unless they use vacation leave to participate in the program. Travel costs may be covered.
- Faculty Leaders may choose to reduce their salary or per diem to balance the budget on an under-enrolled program that still meets the minimum of ten students, but the revised budget must meet minimum summer salary requirements set by the Office of the Provost.
- Only one full salary will be approved per 3 SCH course. The salary must be split between two Faculty Leaders who are co-teaching a course (including cross-listed courses).
- Approximately one month before the end of the semester prior to program departure SAO will transfer the agreed upon salary for payment through each college's Finance Officer. Faculty Leaders should follow up with their department to determine salary disbursement dates as they are not set or determined by SAO.

FACULTY LEADER SALARY FOR THE GLOBAL INTENSIVE OPPORTUNITY MODEL

The Global Intensive Opportunity (GIO) model does not provide a salary as there is no tuition generated from the zero credit pass/no pass course. The hours of instruction and assessment are fewer than a standard three-credit course and the experiential program is seen as an extension of the parent course(s) for which faculty receive a salary. The GIO model does, however, provide faculty with accommodations, airfare, and per diem while abroad at the same rates as the Traditional and Eagles Abroad models. In some cases, faculty leading a GIO may be provided a stipend funded by and at the discretion of their department/college, but this is not guaranteed.

PROGRAM LODGING

- Program lodging should be arranged with both cost and safety in mind. All locations utilized should be clean, secure, and accessible. Options include hotels, residence halls, hostels and homestays.
- Students may be housed in double or triple occupancy, but each student must have their own bed. Faculty and staff will be provided with housing suitable for a single traveler receiving a per diem and may not include cooking facilities. Any upgrades to faculty housing (size, amenities, etc.) will be at the expense of the faculty/staff. Faculty may request a stipend to cover housing they arrange themselves through a commercial vendor, (UNT will not cover expenses for staying with family or friends).
- Faculty and staff are encouraged, but not required, to stay in the same lodging as students. If students are housed in residence halls or homestays not available to faculty/staff, faculty/staff must be located nearby in order to respond to any emergency situations. If students are housed in hotels, faculty/staff are expected to stay in the same hotel.
- Faculty and staff should notify SAO of any medically necessary lodging accommodations (ex. a low floor or no stairs due to knee mobility issues).
- SAO will not provide secondary lodging for faculty except in the case of an overnight program excursion. Faculty and staff are expected to remain in university provided lodging and any alternate arrangements will be at their own expense.

MEALS & INCIDENTALS

- Maximum meal and incidental costs will be calculated at 50% U.S. government foreign per diem rates up to a maximum of \$120 per day. No receipts are required. Rates can be found at: https://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem.asp.
- Faculty Leaders may choose to set their meal and incidental costs lower than the maximum at their discretion in order to reduce the minimum enrollment or balance the budget. If a program overenrolls, faculty can request to restore reductions they agreed to.

- Meals already included in the program costs for Faculty Leaders will be removed from per diem calculations to avoid duplicating expenses. The cost of included meals should align with allowable per diem rates; extravagant group meals that exceed the approved per diem are not appropriate for a student program. Faculty who opt out of meals provided as part of the program, and included in the initial budget, will not be reimbursed for this expense.
- Daily foreign meal and incidental expenses (M&IE) rates are broken down at the rate of 20% for breakfast, 25% for lunch, 45% for dinner and 10% for incidentals.
- Faculty leaders may not claim meals and incidentals for any amount above the amount budgeted, unless in the case of an emergency, in which case you must obtain prior SAO approval. If prior approval is not possible due to the nature of the emergency, then each cost must be justified to SAO Director, who will subsequently decide which expenses will be reimbursed.

TRANSPORTATION & OTHER TRAVEL COSTS

- Faculty Leaders and staff are expected to fly via the most cost effective, coach class fare on a commercial airline. SAO will strive to find a flight with minimal stops and reasonable layovers and flight times, but non-stop flights are not guaranteed even when available. The cost of one checked bag (when no bag allowance is included in the fare) is an allowed expense, and preferred seating (assigned, but not upgraded) is allowable if within the budgeted expense. Faculty should not purchase optional insurance.
- Faculty Leaders and staff are not required to travel with participants but must arrive no later than the start date and depart no sooner than the final day of the program. If one of two faculty/staff on a program need a modified schedule, this must be requested in advance and approved by the sponsoring department and the SAO Director.
- Faculty, staff and student airfare rates will be set to the same amount within the budget.
- SAO will work with Faculty Leaders to book airfare only after a program has met its minimum enrollment through the UNT travel registration and request process. Once travel has been approved, SAO will identify a comparison flight to determine the maximum reimbursement available and faculty may then purchase their flight using Concur or as a reimbursable expense.
- Faculty Leaders may depart from/return to different cities and on alternate dates, but flight costs will only be reimbursed based on the cost of a ticket via the most direct route and on actual program dates.
- As part of the budget process, faculty may request expenses for one day prior and/or one day following the program dates with justification for why those additional days are necessary to the success of the program. No requests for extending travel will be considered after the budget has been approved.
- Program faculty and staff are expected to familiarize themselves with all UNT Travel policies accessible at <https://finance.untsystem.edu/travel/index.php>.

INCLUSION OF AIRFARE

On Traditional and Eagles Abroad programs, students are responsible for securing their own flights to and from the program destination; this is not included in the program cost. Only internal program flights that all participants will be required to take may be included as a budgeted item. Faculty leaders may set up a recommended group flight for students to coordinate student arrival and departure if there is no financial obligation to UNT. SAO can recommend several vendors that offer special programs for the purchase of student flights, including student rates or deferred payment plans. On GIO programs, due to the short nature of this program model, SAO may assist with booking a group flight for faculty and

students provided there are at least 10 individuals committed to the group flight dates. However, this is not a requirement.

ALCOHOL

Program funds may not be used for the purchase of alcohol, including during program-sponsored events such as excursions, tours, group meals, or receptions. The only exception to this is for courses that have been approved to include this as part of normal on-campus instruction, (EX. HMG 4300 Surevey of Beverages in the Hospitality Industry).

GIFTS

Gifts for host organizations/universities or guest speakers can be incorporated into the program budget only when they are culturally necessary. These expenses have a direct impact on the program fee for students and should be added very thoughtfully to avoid increasing program cost. Gifts purchased should be reasonably priced, justifiable, and adhere to UNT purchasing policy. Appropriate gifts include UNT items or other small tokens of appreciation.

PROGRAM FEE CHANGES

Once a program budget has been approved and a program fee has been published, it will not be changed unless a significant logistical change to the program (e.g., on-site program provider or student housing) occurs and the program must be modified due to health/safety concerns or issues with a vendor. Any changes to the program fee due to an emergency must be reviewed and approved by SAO and College/Department.

PURCHASING

- To minimize Faculty Leaders' financial responsibility, SAO aims to reduce travel advances by pre-paying as many program expenses as possible directly to vendors. This both reduces the financial risk to Faculty Leaders and simplifies the reconciliation process. SAO will work with Faculty Leaders prior to departure to identify budget items that may be paid prior to departure.
- Any program-related purchases made by Faculty Leaders without the prior approval of SAO may not be reimbursed. Airfare purchased prior to when a program is confirmed, for example, will only be reimbursed up to the budgeted amount once a program meets its enrollment. Neither students nor faculty leaders should buy airfare before SAO confirms in writing that the program has met minimum enrollment and has been approved for travel.
- Any purchases made by Faculty Leaders in excess of the budgeted amount without the prior approval of SAO may not be reimbursed.
- Non-budgeted purchases are not reimbursable except in the case of emergency situations.

ADDITIONAL FUNDS

Program funds do not belong to a Faculty Leader or to a program and do not carry over from one year to the next. Any additional monies collected on a program generally fall into one of the following categories:

- **Enrollment that exceeds the minimum:** Any funds collected due to over-enrollment are retained by the university. SAO is largely a self-supporting office and surplus program funds are applied towards SAO operating costs in order to keep administrative costs charged to students as low as possible.
- **Overbudgeting and/or underspending:** Budgets should be developed as accurately as possible to avoid overcharging students and creating an unnecessary surplus. Faculty Leaders should work with SAO to research estimated costs or contract with a provider to guarantee prices in economically volatile areas. No refunds will be issued to students from surplus program funds and over-budgeting is a financial hardship for students. Repeat programs will be expected to review past budget expenses in order to more accurately estimate future costs. Faculty Leaders who end up with a small surplus of program funds due to lower than expected costs on site may contact SAO for approval to reallocate their advance by adding additional group meals or program activities. Any additional activities should be tied to the learning outcomes of the program and offered equally to all program participants. Faculty Leaders should never pay for meals or activities for only a few students.
- **Contingency/Risk Management Fee:** SAO incorporates a small contingency/risk management fee into each program that is collected into a central fund to cover currency fluctuations, expenses that could not reasonably be expected, issues with vendors, etc., across all programs. These funds may also be used to cover housing costs associated with uneven student numbers or gender imbalances and in the case of emergencies not covered by insurance including covering the cost of medical or compassionate student withdrawals.

ACCOMPANYING FAMILY MEMBERS OF FACULTY/STAFF

- Study abroad program leadership is a significant responsibility beyond the scope of teaching on campus, and faculty should expect to give their full attention to this brief, intense period. For this reason, UNT generally discourages faculty/staff from bringing their family on the program in accordance with best practices set by national education abroad organizations and peer institutions.
- However, employees may request permission for immediate family members to accompany them on stationary programs. Family responsibilities must not interfere with course and program responsibilities as the programs are academic in nature and meant to serve UNT students. Requests may only be made for spouses and minor children (and their caretaker). Non-related adults and adult children may not accompany the program.
- A stationary program includes one primary location and may include day trips or overnight excursions, which accompanying family members may not participate in. No family members may accompany traveling programs that move from location to location throughout the program.
- If faculty or staff plan to bring accompanying family members, this request for permission must be made during the proposal process.
- In their request, faculty/staff must include specific details about the accompanying traveler(s) and how their presence will not interfere with the employee's work responsibilities. Faculty/Staff requesting permission to bring minor children to the program site must arrange for 24/7 care and emergency support by someone not employed by the program in any way.
- UNT does not allow family members to participate in any program activities, including program travel or meals.
- No family members may act as unpaid chaperones or represent UNT in any way. Only UNT employees who have been trained on university policies and procedures may act as representatives of UNT. UNT policy on nepotism prohibits faculty from supervising family members.
- Family members of UNT employees are not covered by UNT travel insurance unless they are approved for participation and the Faculty/Staff pay for their coverage out of pocket through UNT's Office of Risk Management. No expenses for approved family members may be covered using program funds.
- Non-enrolled or non-employed guests of faculty/staff are not allowed to participate in programs in any way. Any academic visitors to the program must be disclosed to SAO and vetted by the university.
- At the conclusion of the program, students will be asked to assess the impact of the presence of faculty/staff family members. If feedback indicates a negative impact, permission may not be granted for future programs.

FAMILY MEMBERS AND GUESTS OF STUDENTS

Non-enrolled family members or guests of students are not allowed to participate in programs in any way (including presence at activities, in housing, on transportation, etc.).

Recruitment, Marketing Materials, & Advising

RECRUITMENT COMMITMENT

Per past study abroad participants, the most effective recruitment tools for faculty led programs are a motivated, energetic Faculty Leader and the Study Abroad website. Faculty leaders should keep in mind that successful programs require a considerable amount of time and effort spent on marketing. While SAO can promote the program, the best marketing comes from the Faculty Leader. It is only through the Faculty Leader that students can see the full range of benefits when considering study abroad options. Faculty classroom visits are the most powerful recruiting tool, with the combination of faculty and a study abroad alumni being the most effective.

SAO supports all study abroad opportunities available to UNT students, but ultimately the Faculty Leader is the principal marketer/recruiter for their own faculty led program. With this in mind, Faculty Leaders should:

- Be on campus two semesters prior to the program and actively recruit students to participate.
- Be on campus during the semester prior to the program to provide pre-departure meeting(s) for confirmed participants.

Faculty Leaders are encouraged to attend SAO marketing/recruiting workshops offered in the fall semester to learn helpful strategies and tips from experienced faculty and staff.

MARKETING MATERIALS

Through the proposal process, Faculty Leaders are responsible for providing content (text and photos) to SAO for the development of the program webpage. Faculty Leaders must ensure that they have permission to use all photos and text with copyright infringement in mind. If Faculty Leaders do not provide adequate text and photos, SAO will amend text and solicit open source images to use with final approval from the Faculty Leaders. Any marketing materials developed using SAO templates and printed by the Faculty Leader must be in compliance with all University Brand Strategy and Communication (UBSC) guidelines (<https://identityguide.unt.edu>), and branding approvals must be obtained in advance via SAO.

PROGRAM PRINT MATERIALS

SAO will create a program flyer and a poster using standard templates to promote each faculty led program. The 8.5"x11" flyer is designed for electronic distribution and a PDF will be forwarded to the Faculty leader for attachment to departmental newsletters or posting to Canvas for students in pre-requisite courses. SAO will provide 50 color print copies. Faculty Leaders may print extra flyers as needed using the PDF provided. Additional copies will be provided to faculty leaders participating in SAO events, such as the Study Abroad Fair. SAO will create a poster for each program using a standard template. SAO will provide 9 11x17" color copies for faculty leaders for use in promoting the program and will also provide a PDF version if more copies are desired or to use as digital signage around the department and college.

PROGRAM WEBPAGE

SAO will work with the Faculty Leader to create a dynamic webpage that will showcase course information, program inclusions and itinerary, and eligibility requirements using a standard template customized to suit the program. Additional information can be added, such as: testimonials, videos, photo slideshows, dates for information sessions, links to the academic unit's webpage, and any relevant scholarship information. Information in the following categories will be requested from the Faculty Leader in order to create the program webpage: program overview, dates, location(s), visa information, academic staff and courses, housing, accessibility, resources, and photos. As part of the proposal process, faculty Leaders will submit a course syllabus for each course offered for upload to the webpage.

CLASSROOM VISITS AND INFORMATION SESSIONS

Faculty Leaders should develop a strategy to present information to potential participants through brief classroom visits to students in related courses and follow up with information sessions to discuss course content, location information, and the program itinerary. After gathering names of interested students during classroom visits, information sessions may also be a good recruiting tool for attracting new program participants and making connections with students who have already applied to the program. The more personal connections the Faculty Leader can make with students, the less likely they are to withdraw from the program.

RECRUITMENT OF TRANSIENT NON-DEGREE STUDENTS

Faculty Leaders may consider opening their program to non-UNT students and professionals at their discretion. Transient applicants must either be degree-seeking undergraduate or graduate university students who qualify for admission to UNT or professionals seeking continuing education opportunities. Degree-seeking students from other universities will be required to complete a program application that includes a letter of recommendation from a faculty familiar with their academic abilities, a letter confirming their good disciplinary standing at their home institution, and a favorable interview with the UNT Faculty Leader. Professional applicants will complete a program application as well as upload a Statement of Purpose describing the applicant's professional interest in participating in the chosen program. Faculty Leaders may establish additional criteria and must provide transient students unable to attend any in-person orientations a comparable pre-departure experience. Transient students are not eligible for SAO's scholarships, nor UNT financial aid, but may be able to access aid from their home institution. It is the student's responsibility to determine if this is possible. More information for transient students can be found here: <https://studyabroad.unt.edu/non-unt-students>

STUDY ABROAD PORTAL (TERRA DOTTA SYSTEMS) ACCESS AND TRAINING

Faculty Leaders are given access to the application portal on the SAO website to check the status of students and review application materials. SAO can provide training on how to use the Terra Dotta system. It is up to each faculty leader to request this training in order to learn how to use the system to effectively find information. Alternatively, Faculty Leaders will be provided with the profiles of students who have a completed application to include name, year, major/minor, and GPA by SAO for selection. Additional selection criteria, such as interviews, are at the discretion of the faculty leader.

STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIPS

SAO encourages students to apply for grants and scholarships designed to cover the cost of studying abroad. Please refer students to SAO's website for full details and eligibility requirements on these and other scholarship opportunities.

- **SAO Scholarships:**

- International Education Fee (IEF) Scholarship: This scholarship is funded through a small fee charged to every UNT student each term upon registration. Awards are made based on a combination of need and merit and vary based on the program term (semester, summer, winter, spring break). In FY23, awards for faculty led programs will range from \$1,500 - \$2,250 depending on program length.
- Study Abroad Travel Grant: This grant is funded through the Student Service Fee fund which is allocated annually at the SFF committee's discretion. A limited number of highly competitive, need-based \$250 and \$500 grants are awarded each term.

NOTE: It is possible for students to receive both the IEF Scholarship and the Travel Grant.

- **Department/College/School Scholarships:** Some departments and/or college/schools offer study abroad scholarships to students. Contact your academic unit for more information on funding available to support study abroad.
- **National Scholarships:** Nationally competitive scholarships (Gilman, Boren, FEA, etc.) are typically awarded to semester abroad participants, however some shorter programs are eligible, including the Gilman Scholarship which is available to students who receive a Pell Grant. Faculty Leaders may find that professional organizations and honor societies offer discipline-specific awards to promote to students. These opportunities may be added to the program brochure as a resource for students.
- **Other external Scholarships:** Other scholarships are available to students based on travel to specific locations or to expand accessibility (<https://studyabroad.unt.edu/external-scholarships>).

STUDENT ADVISING

The Faculty Leader is considered the best resource on the academic details of their program and SAO will encourage interested students to contact the Faculty Leader for one-on-one advising on the academic details of the program. Interested students may be directed to SAO for guidance on other aspects of the program including application process and requirements, funding, timelines, etc. SAO cannot be responsible for inaccurate information communicated by Faculty Leaders and departmental staff or the consequences resulting from the inaccurate information provided.

- **Study Abroad 101 Sessions:**

SAO highly encourages all interested students to attend a Study Abroad 101 session to learn about study abroad in general. Students can find the most current information on where and when they are offered on the SAO website (<https://studyabroad.unt.edu/node/759>).

- **Advising on Program Details:**

- The online program brochure page is the final word on program costs, and Faculty Leaders should direct students to this resource. On the brochure page, each program has a tab labeled “Costs” that includes the program’s full cost information, including estimated tuition and out of pocket costs. The cost sheet is a dynamic form, so students can select their academic career for tuition and fee expenses, manipulate out of pocket expenses based on their own unique spending habits, and keep track of scholarships they anticipate receiving.
- If the Faculty Leader is uncertain about information requested by a student, they should refer the student to their academic advisor or SAO for assistance. Guidance on how program courses fit into a student’s degree plan are best handled by the student’s department.

- **Advising on Financial Resources:**

Faculty Leaders should be careful when talking with students about scholarships or financial aid and advise them to speak to the administering body of their individual scholarships for confirmation about applying the award to study abroad. There are important differences between scholarships, grants, waivers, and exemptions – not all can be used for every study abroad program and it is important that students receive accurate information and guidance.

- **Scholarships**

- SAO scholarships follow guidelines established by UNT’s Financial Aid Office, although SAO is the best resource on questions related to SAO grants and scholarships.
- All college or department-specific scholarships are overseen by that college or department and students should contact them directly with questions.
- SAO also manages a list of external scholarships available to study abroad students and provides guidance and coaching on competitive awards in collaboration with the Honors College.

- **Financial Aid**

- Students must complete a FASFA for the academic year in order to be considered for financial aid, including study abroad grants and scholarships. For summer, they must also complete the Summer Aid Application through their myUNT account. **The earlier a student takes this step, the more likely they are to receive grants they’re eligible for, not just loans.**
- A student’s award eligibility is typically for the entire academic year, so a student is only eligible in summer for aid remaining after fall and spring disbursements.
- All final UNT financial aid decisions rest with the Financial Aid Office. Students with questions are encouraged to visit the webpage and use the email address created specifically for study abroad program participants:
 - <http://financialaid.unt.edu/special-programs-and-study-abroad>

- specialprograms@unt.edu
- Please carefully consider the consequences of financial advising; not every program is financially within reach of every student. If a potential applicant expresses concerns about cost, refer them back to SAO to find a program that fits their financial situation.
- Important information to keep in mind regarding summer financial aid:
 - There is a limit on grant funding in the summer.
 - There is a limit on loan funding in the summer; if a student borrowed the maximum amount during the Fall/Spring terms, their loan eligibility will be \$0 for summer.
- Undergraduate students must be enrolled at least half-time (6 credits) for their aid to disburse; aid does not disburse until day one of the course of the student's sixth credit for the term. Graduate students must be enrolled in 5 or more credits; aid does not disburse until day one of the course including the student's fifth credit for the term.
- Summer financial aid may help defray the cost of study abroad programs, but it should not be counted on as the primary source of funding.
- Students participating on a non-credit bearing Global Intensive Opportunity (GIO) are not eligible for financial aid but may be eligible for SAO scholarships.
- **Budgeting and Financial Planning:**
 - The Student Money Management Center (SMMC) provides valuable guidance to study abroad students on financial planning for their program abroad. Please feel free to refer students to SMMC to consult with a financial advisor: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-money-management-center>
- **Accurate Representation of Program Status:**

Faculty Leaders must accurately represent the current state of the program and not assure students that the program will run without confirmation from SAO which retains the right to cancel a program at any time. **Only SAO has the right to confirm or cancel a program based on enrollments and/or current safety and security conditions in the host country(ies) after conversations with the faculty.** Faculty should not confirm, nor cancel a program with students. This is especially important in relation to the purchase of airfare by students. If students insist on buying airfare before SAO has confirmed that the program has reached minimum enrollment and will be going, please:

 - Put in writing to the student, copying the SAO Faculty Led Programs Advisor, that purchasing his/her airfare is against the Faculty Leader's recommendation as the program has not been confirmed.
 - Encourage students to buy flights with flexible booking policies and to strongly consider cancellation insurance.
- **ADA Accommodations**
 - Faculty Leaders should be transparent in their marketing efforts about the functional capabilities required to participate in the program. UNT will aim to make reasonable effort to provide accommodations for students registered with the UNT Office of Disability Access (ODA, <http://disability.unt.edu/services/apply>). Students should request accommodations as early as possible in the application process to ensure that SAO can research the availability and cost of reasonable accommodations.
 - Faculty Leaders may not accept or deny a student on the basis of a disability.
 - Online program brochures include standard text on accommodations and must also include a description of the functional capacities essential to achieve program learning goals, e.g. students need to be able to independently traverse rocky terrain, climb stairs, deal with extremes in temperature, lift up to __ amount of weight, navigate an urban or unimproved rural environment, engage in discussion of emotionally charged course content, etc.

- Faculty Leaders are encouraged to include information on academic accommodations in their syllabus in accordance with UNT recommendations.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act only applies to the U.S. and U.S. territories. Not all accommodations requested can be provided abroad; they are subject to the environment and the laws of the destination. UNT will make a good faith effort to provide access to reasonable accommodations for students studying abroad but any additional cost (e.g. for Sign Language interpreters, personal assistants) may be the responsibility of the student. SAO will work with ODA and the Faculty Leader to address accommodation requests.

STUDENT APPLICATION REQUIRED SUBMISSIONS AND FORMS

To complete their initial application, students must complete the following items:

- **Applicant Information:** Each student is required to submit an emergency contact through the Terra Dotta application portal.
- **Consent to Release Information (FERPA):** Provides SAO with authorization to be the student's campus representative during their program and release appropriate information as needed.
- **Unofficial Transcript**
- **Acknowledgment of Terms of Application**
- **Acknowledgment of UNT Email Communication Policy**
- **Acknowledgment of Withdrawal Policy**
- **Authorization for Treatment:** Faculty Leaders will be given access to an original, signed copy of the Authorization for Treatment form for each student for use in the event of an emergency.
- **Financial Obligation Agreement:** Since UNT will automatically drop students from a course(s) if there is not enough money plus anticipated financial aid in their student account to cover tuition charges on the first day of classes, this document ensures students are aware of this issue and take time to make previous arrangements with the Office of Financial Aid to prevent being dropped. In the past, this issue has caused a lot of stress for students and a lot of SAO staff time assisting students with getting re-enrolled in their course after they have already departed the U.S.
- **Student Agreement:** Outlines a student's rights and responsibilities during their program, including behavior, payments, withdrawal, etc.

Once they are accepted into a program, students must complete the following items:

- **Medical Information and Request for Accommodations:** Voluntary disclosure of medical conditions, medications, allergies, dietary restrictions, and requests for any accommodations as registered with ODA.
- **Health Clearance Form:** To be completed by a doctor as well as a mental health specialist, if requested by the doctor. Faculty Leaders can access this form via the student's application portal. Faculty Leaders may review the forms for important medical information and access the form in the event of an emergency.
- **Passport:** Each student is asked to enter passport information and a scanned copy of their passport information page which may be required by some program providers.
- **Additional forms requested by faculty or program vendor:** Varies by program.

STUDENT PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Students on faculty led programs are asked to pay the following:

- **\$100 Application Fee:** Due at time of application via the application portal; students will not be considered for acceptance until they complete all application material and pay this fee.

- Due dates may be set earlier by program based on contractual agreements, but the standard application deadlines are:
 - Summer programs: Due by February 14
 - Fall programs: Due by April 4
 - Winter Session & Spring programs: Due by October 1
- This fee is non-refundable except in the case of program cancellation by SAO (for active applications only) or if a student with a completed application is not accepted based on admission criteria or capacity limitations. Applicants who pay the application fee but fail to complete application materials are not eligible for a refund.
- **\$200 Program Deposit:** Paid after acceptance to confirm participation.
 - Due dates may be set earlier by program based on contractual agreements, but the standard confirmation deadlines are:
 - Summer programs: Due by February 28
 - Fall programs: Due by April 18
 - Winter Session & Spring programs: Due by October 15
 - By paying this confirmation deposit, students commit themselves to participation in the program. The deposit is non-refundable, except in the case of program cancellation by SAO (active applicants only).
- **Program Fee:** Balance of program fee billed through UNT student account.
 - Due according to standardized SAO payment deadlines.
 - If a student withdraws from the program, any non-recoverable portion of the program fee already encumbered on behalf of the participant is non-refundable. SAO is not able to guarantee, and does NOT guarantee, that any portion of the fees owed to or submitted to SAO will be removed or refunded if a participant withdraws from the program for any reason after committing to participate.
- **Program Tuition:**
 - Due according to tuition payment deadlines by term set by Student Accounting: <http://essc.unt.edu/saucs/payments.html>.
 - If students cannot pay the amount by the required deadlines, they must contact the Financial Aid Office by emailing specialprograms@unt.edu to identify additional financial resources, if available.
 - If students do not either pay tuition or have enough anticipated financial aid in their account to cover the cost of tuition by the UNT deadline, they will be automatically dropped from their courses and the program at their expense.
 - Program tuition and fees are non-refundable after applicable term payment deadline set by Student Accounting: <http://essc.unt.edu/saucs/payments.html>.
- **Out of Pocket Costs:**
 - Before program: Passport, visa(s), airfare, textbooks and supplies, etc.
 - During program: Additional meals, incidentals, local transportation, international phone or data plans, etc.

NOTE: If students are having difficulty making out-of-pocket payments up front, please direct them to the Student Money Management Center to inquire about emergency interest-free loans including a specific travel loan: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-money-management-center/programs/eagle-support-program>.

MEDICAL/COMPASSIONATE WITHDRAWAL

A study abroad medical/compassionate withdrawal request may be made by a student in extraordinary cases in which serious illness or injury (medical) or another significant personal situation (compassionate) prevents a student from participating or continuing in their study abroad program. SAO will advise students who withdraw about this option which is also referenced in the Withdrawal Policy.

ACCEPTING APPLICANTS

Faculty Leaders are responsible for reviewing and approving all student applicants to the program. Student applications should be evaluated on the following:

- **GPA & Academic Good Standing:** The recommended minimum UNT GPA for participation is 2.25, but Faculty Leaders may set a higher GPA minimum for their program. Students below the 2.25 level run the risk of falling out of good academic standing (2.0 or higher) before the start of the program. SAO cannot accept any students under 2.0 GPA or not in good standing. Exceptions to the GPA requirement are only given in very rare cases based on extenuating circumstances (ex. personal/medical crisis impacting grades) and require the approval of the director of study abroad, as well as the sponsoring department's chair and dean.
- **Disciplinary Checks:** All applicants are subject to a UNT disciplinary check performed by the Office of the Dean of Students and may take several days to complete. Please keep in mind that students who are not in good conduct standing with the university may be subject to rejection based on the details of their disciplinary record. SAO will review the DOS report and discuss it with the student and the Faculty Leader as needed.
- **Other Eligibility Requirements:** Faculty Leaders should evaluate students for any other program-specific criteria they have advertised on their website which must be advertised to students ahead of time. For example, the study abroad application portal can be used to request electronic Letters of Recommendation if SAO is given at least one month to set up the questions requested.
- **Application Forms and Materials:** The application process consists of several short forms and requirements maintained by SAO. Additional forms and/or questions can be added upon request by the Faculty Leader. Leaders must ensure all materials are complete before accepting the student. Please keep in mind that although SAO does not anticipate changes to the forms, changes may occur, and the Faculty Leader should go into individual student applications under the "Questionnaires" and "Materials" tabs to determine current materials requested.
- **Application Fee Payment:** Students are required to pay the \$100 Application Charge at the time of application. Students may be withdrawn by SAO staff during periodic system reviews if they have not paid the application charge and their application has been inactive for several weeks.
- **Acknowledgment of UNT Email:** This ensures students understand all official communication will come to their UNT email. While the student may have a different email, please remember that SAO's systems are automatic, thus you must encourage students to check ALL their accounts.

Transient non-degree applicants will be held to the same admission criteria as UNT applicants but will also be expected to submit a letter or reference and proof of good disciplinary standing at their home institution. They will also be required to complete an interview with the Faculty Leader who retains the right to refuse acceptance based on their evaluation of each of these additional requirements.

Pre-Departure Considerations

FACULTY LEADER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE SEMINARS:

UNT requires that all study abroad Faculty Leaders, Co-Leaders, and Support Faculty/Staff participate in an Emergency Preparedness and Response Seminar (Faculty Pre-Departure Orientation) every year. Seminar presentations are facilitated by the SAO Director and Associate Director. The seminars cover

preparation prior to departure, resources available, financial information, and actions to take while abroad when responding to emergencies. Representatives from other relevant UNT offices are often in attendance and are on hand to highlight best practices and answer questions.

STUDENT ORIENTATIONS

- **Student Pre-Departure Meetings led by Faculty Leader:** Faculty leaders are required to conduct at least one **mandatory** pre-departure meeting for all students that outlines academic and behavioral expectations; health, safety, legal, environmental, political, cultural, and religious conditions in host location(s); potential health and safety risks including unsafe behavior and preventable accidents; and emergency preparedness and response. This must be scheduled after the final program deadline to ensure that all participants receive the same information.
- **Student Orientation led by SAO:** SAO requires students to complete three modules on the topics of pre-departure, while abroad, and re-entry. Each module has an associated quiz that students must achieve 100%. If after three attempts, this is not achieved, the student is required to attend an advising session to review the content. In addition students are also required to pass a travel insurance quiz to grasp the basics of using UNT's travel insurance. . To supplement the online modules, SAO holds several in-person pre-departure orientations that cover generally applicable health and safety precautions, UNT registration and academic considerations, etc. At these pre-departure sessions, SAO also offers an alumni panel session where departing students can ask questions of the student alumni and of the study abroad advisors. These will generally be held during the last few weeks of the fall and spring semesters. Faculty Leaders may also attend if they choose.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

UNT students, staff and faculty participating in university-related travel (with some limitations if traveling to their home country) are covered by a comprehensive travel insurance policy. The primary focus of this policy is coverage for accident and illness, prescriptions, emergency evacuation and repatriation, and accidental death and dismemberment. There is also very limited coverage for trip delay, trip interruption, and personal property. Faculty Leaders, staff and students are strongly encouraged to purchase additional insurance coverage appropriate to their personal situation.

- **Student Registration:** Students are automatically registered and pay for their travel insurance as part of their program fee. Students will have online access to their health insurance card and policy summary through their application portal after they are accepted.
- **Faculty Leader Registration:** Faculty Leaders are required to register their travel through UNT's Emergency Management & Safety Services *International Travel Registration Form* (<https://emergency.unt.edu/health-safety-abroad>) as part of the travel authorization process. Faculty Leaders are automatically enrolled in UNT's travel insurance and will be provided with electronic resources regarding coverage and usage. This will also be reviewed during the Faculty Leader pre-departure training.
- **OnSolve Risk Intelligence:** All UNT travelers are enrolled in this program which includes access to real-time, location-based information and support in the event of a major incident via a mobile app. The program also access to includes intelligence reports, crisis communication tools, and an emergency panic beacon.
- **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP):** Faculty Leaders, staff and students are strongly encouraged to enroll in the State Department's STEP program as an additional risk management precaution (<https://step.state.gov/step>).

OUTGOING TRAVEL REQUESTS AND TRAVEL PAPERWORK

- **Forms:** SAO will complete the Travel Request on behalf of Faculty Leaders/Staff based on the approved budget and final student enrollment. Faculty Leaders/Staff should review carefully and submit the Travel Request for approvals in order to receive program travel monies prior to departure.
- **Disbursement Method:** Faculty Leaders/Staff cash advances are disbursed into the same account that you receive your salary.
- **Disbursement Timeline:** Travel advance monies will be disbursed per Travel Services policy, currently no more than five (5) days prior to departure. Only one cash advance per employee is allowed per trip. Travel Services processing timelines are not within SAO's control.

On-Site Considerations

ON-SITE ORIENTATION

SAO strongly encourages Faculty Leaders to conduct a mandatory orientation with students on arrival to the program country and again in each new location. This orientation should include a reminder of program expectations, an introduction to the local area and transportation system, reminders of known risks, and an overview of program emergency plans (local phone numbers for emergency/consular services, location of nearest medical facility, a safe meeting point and communication plan, etc.). If you are working with a local host institution or organization, request that they offer or participate in an arrival orientation for the students.

RESPONDING TO AND REPORTING INCIDENTS ABROAD

- Just as on campus, Faculty Leaders and Staff are responsible for responding to, and have a legal responsibility to report, all incidents abroad including behavioral issues and medical and non-medical emergencies. Leaders and Staff should follow guidance outlined in the *Emergency Preparedness and Response Handbook* provided prior to departure.
- Faculty Leaders and Staff are considered "Campus Security Authorities" to align with the federal Clery Act: <http://clery.unt.edu/>
 - Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act is a landmark federal law, originally known as the Campus Security Act, which requires colleges and universities across the United States to disclose information about crime on and around their campuses. This includes all study abroad programs sponsored by UNT.
 - Faculty will be trained as Campus Security Authorities as part of the annual Preparedness and Emergency Response Seminar.

FACULTY AVAILABILITY

Faculty are expected to remain in the program location for the duration of the program, including during free days, in order to respond to student issues. If a program includes two UNT Faculty/Staff, one may be designated as the primary emergency responder during free days allowing the other to travel away from the program location, but this arrangement must be communicated to SAO in advance.

SETTING EXPECTATIONS ON STUDENT BEHAVIOR

- Faculty Leaders are responsible for addressing student behavior that disrupts the program or violates the trip's behavioral expectations. SAO and the Dean of Students Office can assist faculty leaders with behavioral issues.
- Prior to departure, Faculty Leaders should set clear expectations with students about what behavior is not permitted. It is beneficial to discuss expectations that are different from what the student is used to at home or on campus (e.g., professionalism issues as a representative of UNT, alcohol issues in a country with a different legal drinking age, roommate issues in unique living environments).

- Address behavioral issues with students promptly and fairly. The student should be given an opportunity to respond to concerns and given the opportunity to correct inappropriate behavior. Consequences should address the concerning behavior. Again, SAO and Dean of Students Office can assist you.
- Document concerns received, all conversations with students about concerns, and expected outcomes. Share this information promptly with SAO. Inappropriate behavior may be subject to the university conduct process in addition to action taken by the faculty leader, but this must be assessed through the Dean of Students Office. Faculty should not try to determine if behavior violates the UNT Student Code of Conduct or communicate this to students.
- Dismissing a student from a program is considered a last resort and Faculty Leaders considering this step should be prepared to be challenged by the student. For this reason, the decision must be made in consultation with SAO and other university partners who will be the final decisionmakers on removing a student from a program.

FACULTY/STAFF CONDUCT AND LIABILITY

- Faculty Leaders or Support Faculty/Staff who violate any applicable laws in the U.S. or host country, or UNT policies, will be subject to removal from the program, including while in travel status. SAO and the relevant chair and dean will determine an action plan to minimize the impact on students. SAO will defer to the university to respond in accordance with UNT policy. SAO will strive to maintain the integrity of the program as planned.
- Faculty Leaders and Support Faculty/Staff should be familiar with the UNT policy on the Use of Alcoholic Beverages, <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/04-016>.
- Faculty Leaders are covered by all the same job protections while abroad as on campus.

Post-Program Considerations

GRADES

Faculty Leaders must submit the grades for the courses taught through all regular UNT systems in accordance with deadlines associated with their program's term. Due to the compressed timeline of winter session programs, Faculty Leaders may choose to assign winter session students an incomplete and designate a reasonable deadline after the start of the spring semester for completing program assignments.

TRAVEL PAPERWORK AND RECONCILIATION:

- In accordance with Travel policies, Faculty Leaders/Staff must submit their travel receipts for reconciliation to the Study Abroad Office within five (5) days of their return to the U.S.
- If Faculty Leaders/Staff plan to return to campus more than 5 days after the program end date, they must inform SAO so that arrangements can be made to receive the travel receipts electronically or by mail.
- Each receipt should be labeled with the type of expense (meal, taxi etc.) and date of expense. Alternately, Faculty Leaders/Staff may choose to submit receipts electronically using images taken by their mobile phone using an app such as Google Docs.
- No foreign currency or U.S. cash, including coins, will be accepted when repaying a Travel Advance. Faculty Leaders are required to write a check to UNT for the requested amount.
- Other important Travel Services guidelines:
 - SAO will prepare the faculty/staff Expense Report using the receipts provided by the faculty/staff. Once the Expense Report is complete, faculty/staff are requested to carefully review it and submit it for approvals. If this is not completed within 7 days, a notice will be sent regarding the overdue

status. Approved Expense Reports and receipts must be received by Travel within 30 days or the DeptID will be charged the full amount and the delinquency of the traveler will be reported to internal audit. Any travel reimbursement vouchers or advance service requests for the employee will not be processed until the final approved Expense Report is received.

- In accordance with IRS directives, a reimbursement request for travel expenses must be submitted within 60 days of the last day of travel or the expenses will be treated as taxable wages.
- Faculty Leaders/staff who do not comply with Travel's deadlines jeopardize the ability of UNT to provide travel advances for faculty led programs as well as for their own future UNT travel.

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT:

Program evaluations will be distributed to students by SAO within several weeks of the conclusion of each program, after students have had some time to process their study abroad experience. Faculty Leaders are asked to encourage students to complete SAO online program evaluation. These evaluations are separate from the SPOT evaluations of the course and instructor. The results of these evaluations will be shared by SAO with the Faculty Leader on request and may also be shared with the chair and dean.