



# MAPPING STUDY ABROAD TO THE MAJOR

CURRICULUM INTEGRATION INITIATIVE • 2016-2017 • KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS - YEAR 3

## SUMMARY

Mapping Study Abroad to the Major is a collaborative initiative between the Office of Study Abroad and the KU academic departments to integrate study abroad opportunities (semester & short-term programs) into each degree plan to increase access to and participation in international education. The focus of the Mapping Study Abroad to the Major initiative is on the identification of diverse, high-quality, immersive academic programs strongly aligned with the KU curriculum as well as programs with unique curricular or co-curricular opportunities for students. The initiative was launched in Fall 2014.

Budget cuts in Year 3 caused some disruption to the Mapping Study Abroad to the Major initiative, as one Program Manager position was eliminated and staff in the remaining two CI-dedicated positions were asked to assume additional responsibilities in support of broader office needs. However, despite these set-backs, the OSA continued to make substantive progress in advancing curriculum integration goals. This Year 3 Annual Report highlights some of our key accomplishments of the past year.

## GOAL 1

### Expand “Mapping Study Abroad to the Major” curriculum integration initiative.

During the past year, the Curriculum Integration team has expanded the scope of the Mapping Study Abroad to the Major initiative through the engagement of additional academic units in curriculum integration efforts, the development of new faculty-led, short-term programs for the professional schools, and the creation of new reciprocal student exchange programs principally serving Education and Engineering majors, both traditionally underrepresented in semester study abroad programs.

#### New unit involvement in study abroad

Six new academic units engaged in the initiative during AY 2016, bringing the overall total number of active units to 54. New units include:

- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: French; Human Sexuality; Italian; Mathematics; Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- School of Business: Business Analytics

## GOAL 1, CONTINUED

### Short-term program development

As a result of ongoing conversations with academic units currently engaged in CI and by observing the needs and interests of students in majors underrepresented in study abroad, three new faculty-led programs and one new international internship opportunity were developed for the Summer 2017 term:

- **Creativity and Culture in Rome** – School of Journalism: Upon completion of CI work in the School of Journalism, Prof. Janet Rose saw an opportunity to extend the reach of the J-School's "Agency" by taking students to Rome to explore the role that culture plays in effective brand messaging.  
*Targeted majors: Strategic Communications, Communication Studies, and Marketing*
- **Microbiology in Western Europe** – Dept. of Molecular Biosciences: After receiving a CI Faculty Travel Grant for a site visit to Germany in March 2016, Prof. Scott Hefty designed a program to introduce students to the differences between the European and US health care systems via visits to leading pharmaceutical research institutes and companies in France, Germany, and Switzerland.  
*Targeted majors: Biology; Biochemistry; Microbiology; Human Biology; Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology, Pre-med; Pre-nursing, and other health-related majors*
- **Sport Management in Europe** – Dept. of Health, Sport, and Exercise Science: After CI team members presented to Health, Sport, and Exercise Science faculty last spring, Prof. Jordan Bass was inspired to create a program to address the interests of students in the HSES department. The Sport Management in Europe program visited sporting venues, spoke to industry professionals, and went "behind the scenes" to explore and compare aspects of the professional sporting industry across multiple countries and multiple sports.  
*Targeted majors: Sport Management, Exercise Science, Community Health, Health & Physical Education, Business Administration, and Business Minor students*
- **Hospital Shadowing in Spain** – The high number of pre-medical students seeking international opportunities relevant to their major and career path prompted the OSA to partner with program provider The Atlantis Project to offer students a six-week healthcare internship which provided them with an extensive observation experience in a hospital setting.  
*Targeted majors: Pre-med, Pre-nursing, Exercise Science, and other health-related majors*

### New semester partnerships & funding opportunities

Curricular fit and/or financial constraints are often cited by students as common barriers to study abroad. In AY 2016-17, the University of Kansas developed three new reciprocal student exchange agreements with partner institutions, addressing the challenge of curricular fit by providing students in underrepresented majors new opportunities for international study. Similarly, as a result of collaborations with the Department of Psychology, a new funding opportunity was made available to Psychology students to support their participation in international education.

- **Macquarie University** – Sydney, Australia: Macquarie is a comprehensive institution offering a wide variety of course options and has been identified as a curricular match for seven of KU's Teacher Education programs as well as the Speech-Language-Hearing program, all of which are underrepresented in study abroad.
- **Ljubljana University** – Ljubljana, Slovenia: Ljubljana University was identified by the School of Business as a good program option for their students. Additionally, there are potential curricular fits with several School of Engineering majors.

## GOAL 1, CONTINUED

- **TU Graz** – Graz, Austria: After completing his sabbatical at TU Graz, Prof. Dave Petr played a key role in fostering the exchange agreement between KU and TU Graz. This agreement provides another program option for students majoring in Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, and Computer Science.
- **Cheryle A. Burton MacKenzie Study Abroad Scholarship** – The Psychology Department has developed a new scholarship opportunity to support students participating in one of the CI-approved programs for psychology.

## GOAL 2

### Conduct campus-wide outreach and engagement to further understanding of the initiative.

Over the last year the Curriculum Integration team has continued to lead major-specific outreach events and activities across the Lawrence campus and expanded their efforts to include students at the Edwards campus. Outreach events included tabling, info sessions, school-specific study abroad fairs, class presentations, and participation in recruitment events. All were conducted with the aim of presenting students with program and course recommendations for their specific major(s).

#### On-site advising sessions

Providing students with major-specific study abroad advising sessions has been a focus of the CI outreach efforts over the past year. In addition to continuing the weekly walk-in advising hours at LEEP2 for engineering students, weekly walk-in sessions were also held in JRP for Teacher Education students and in Robinson for Health, Sport, and Exercise Science majors.

#### Customized degree plans for students

The complexity inherent in major curricular plans, particularly STEM or Education degrees, can make it challenging for students in those majors to successfully navigate the study abroad process. To provide students with the necessary guidance in identifying appropriate courses and timeframes for study abroad, the CI team launched a first-step advising system. CI staff meet individually with students in the School of Engineering and School of Education to craft student-specific, customized degree plans with study abroad incorporated. Equipped with this information, the student is then better prepared to select the study abroad program(s) that meet their academic, professional, and personal goals.

#### Collaboration with academic advisors

The CI team has continued to partner closely with academic advisors across the Lawrence and Edwards campuses by including them in the program research, vetting, and creation of outreach and advising materials. Additionally, CI staff have taken an active role in the reinvigorated KU Advising Network. This campus-wide group provides an opportunity for staff networking and collaboration, and facilitates the OSA's ability to make connections with advisors as they work to engage more academic units in the CI initiative.

## GOAL 3

### Expand “Study Abroad in the Major” online resources

As one of the outcomes of the CI initiative, major-specific resources have been developed and disseminated for the academic departments engaged in curriculum integration work. Those pieces have included bookmarks, advising guides, graduation plans, and other appropriate print resources for students in those majors. Over the last year the CI team has collaborated with the Study Abroad Outreach team to create easier access to those resources by featuring the major-specific resources prominently on the homepage of the OSA website. Students and academic advisors can now easily navigate to the course equivalencies that have been established as well as the program recommendations for a given major.

#### Study abroad course database

With development of the database now complete, course equivalencies for over 2000 courses have been entered into the database. Students are now able to search for vetted course offerings at a given partner institution or search for a specific KU course abroad. The database provides the user with information regarding term availability, equivalent KU credit hours, language of instruction, as well as important notes on the course or KU equivalency. This tool enables the student to become a more active participant in their study abroad program research and reaffirms the importance of academics in selecting an appropriate study abroad program.

#### Study abroad advising guides

Over the last year the CI team has overhauled the design and format of the major-specific advising guides in an effort to provide more information regarding specific timing and course recommendations for each of the vetted programs for a given major. In collaboration with the relevant academic advisor(s) for each unit engaged in CI work, year by year recommendations were crafted so that a student could more clearly identify what steps to take at a given point within their curriculum. Students and advisors can now easily navigate to these guides directly from the OSA homepage.

#### Resources for all majors

During the first two years of the CI initiative, the print and web-based resources were created solely for those academic departments who had completed the CI process. In an effort to be inclusive of students from majors not yet engaged in curriculum integration work, advising guides have been created for the majority of academic programs at KU. Although the information contained in these resources is still fairly generic, the guides reaffirm the opportunity for all majors to study abroad and provide students a good starting point in initiating their study abroad program research. Approximately 90 advising guides have been created, and more detailed recommendations will be added to these as those academic units are engaged in curriculum integration work.