

International Education Committee
Thursday, October 9, 2025
Minutes
3:00 - 5:00 PM

Welcome and Introductions

Review/Approval of Past Minutes - [May 8, 2025 Minutes](#) were approved

Opportunity: Study Abroad in Japan through Northern California Study Abroad Consortium

Adam presented a proposal to add a semester-length study abroad program in Japan to the existing consortium program, which currently offers programs in Europe. He explained that while the program would be smaller, with 50-60 students from two districts instead of the full 100-student cohort, it could still provide a valuable opportunity for students to study in Kyoto. Adam recommended adding Japan to the spring rotation, as the Florence program is currently oversubscribed while Barcelona and London programs have lower enrollment. He noted that this would not replace existing programs but could meet additional student demand for studying in Japan.

The cost to students would be approximately \$10,595 for a 13-week semester that includes housing but not airfare or food. The program would require 0.8 FTE of instructional allocation and an additional 0.2 FTE for recruitment efforts, with the district committing to offer it every other spring.

Debi expressed concern about potential cannibalization of the existing summer program, suggesting it could be moved to an every-other-year schedule to avoid competition. Richard emphasized the importance of selecting instructors who can help students navigate the formal culture of Kyoto, noting that while almost anyone can have a good experience in more accessible European destinations, Japan requires more cultural sensitivity from both students and faculty.

Debbi offered to help develop professional development workshops for faculty, drawing from her experience with summer programs, while Riad suggested pre-departure meetings for students and faculty. Leah expressed support for the Japan program and inquired about visa requirements, noting that the 90-day visa for Europe could limit travel opportunities after the semester, while the Japan program might offer more flexibility for post-program travel.

The group agreed to take the Japan opportunity back to their campuses for further feedback and regroup in December to make a final recommendation.

Study Abroad Faculty Applications (2027-2028)

The group discussed improving the faculty selection process for study abroad programs, focusing on evaluating applicants' engagement with student life and campus activities. They agreed to add a question to the application focusing on campus involvement and student engagement, while also considering a more critical review of existing answers. The conversation also touched on the good standing requirements for students participating in study abroad programs, clarifying that students must not be on academic or disciplinary probation. Updates: Clarification of "Good Standing" (for College based Study Abroad)

The group discussed changes to the study abroad program application questions, deciding to replace question 1 with a focus on how applicants will help others in a new cultural environment and to eliminate question 3 about foreign languages. They confirmed the screening committee members as Leah, Riad, Debbie, Lauren, and Richard, with Frank agreeing to clarify with Paula about potential additional faculty involvement as per Academic Senate concerns. Frank also reminded the group about the December International Education Committee meeting and subsequent celebration at Pete's Brewery.

Instructor-Led Study Abroad Roadmap

The group discussed a document outlining the process for faculty-led study abroad programs, with Richard explaining it was based on his conversations with Debbie and Leah about their experiences. Debbie praised the document's tone and suggested making it more flexible, while Riad proposed adding information about non-AIFS programs and suggested creating a separate document for those processes. The group agreed to modify Richard's roadmap to include both AIFS and non-AIFS options, with Riad taking the lead on creating a new document for non-AIFS programs.