



Student-Athlete Playbook: Top 5 Tips Supporting Student- Athletes Studying Abroad

According to the NCAA, on average 30% of student-athletes across DI, II, and III have either studied abroad or plan to do so. More than ever study abroad is on their radar, so prepare yourself now before they come in to your office! Here are five tips to create strong campus collaborations with colleagues in the Athletics department.

1

Create a Game Plan. Do research on which student-athletes may already be studying abroad. Learn what sports are considered varsity sports, club sports, or intramurals at your campus.

2

Learn NCAA Compliance Considerations. The NCAA highlights study abroad to student-athletes, but you also should have general knowledge of the NCAA compliance requirements. Know key issues that relate to scholarship dollars. Learn how many players from a team can go abroad together and always involve the Chief Compliance officer to find out specifics of what can and cannot be done. You do not want to jeopardize a student-athlete's eligibility.

3

Build a Deep Bench. Having key champions at all levels will help with the process of getting student-athletes abroad. It is important to have contacts in many different areas of the Athletics department because the champions you work with may change frequently. Some people you should try to be in contact with and learn from are: director for student-athlete academic advising, academic advisors for student-athletes, learning specialists, directors of student-athlete development and services, athletic director, coaches and coaching staff, and compliance specialists.

4

Speak the Language. Know each team's training and game schedule. This information tells you when programs should be offered or when to approach different people to get them on your team. Discuss what the weekly conditioning requirements are. Know if students will be able to continue their training while they are abroad or not. Discover what happens if students are "red-shirted" or injured, and if they can go abroad post-rehab. Learn if students can go abroad post-eligibility and still use their scholarship dollars for their program.

5

Build a Tradition. Work with coaches and advisors to highlight and promote student-athletes studying abroad at upcoming events and in advising sessions. Scholarship dollars may be available for students through their Athletics department. Some universities have had their student-athletes create videos which were shown on the big screen during a game, or have had an ad in the game day program. If there is a strong history of study abroad among your student-athletes, this may also be a recruiting tool for your institution.