



# Tips for Collaborating Across Campus to Support First Generation College Students

1

**Admissions Office.** Work with the admissions department to attend open houses or recruiting events in which parents and first-generation students may be present. Present literature that will apply to the needs of first-generation students studying abroad.

Work with admissions to get statistics on first-generation status for your student body.

2

**Orientation Activities.** Work with the department that handles/coordinates any freshman orientation or seminar programs. Make presentations on study abroad during the freshman seminar programs. Discuss initiatives during presentation about outreach and targeting diverse groups such as first generation students.

3

**Academic Advisors.** Collaborate with specific departments, like engineering, around your campus to pre-articulate credit transfers for study abroad options. This will help first-gen students immediately identify the value of the program and create more buy-in from their community support networks.

Facilitate regular check-ins between study abroad and academic advisor groups to bring advisors up to date on current study abroad issues and trends and any new courses or programs available. This also helps keep good lines of communication in order to better advise students.

4

**Scholarships/Aid Offices.** Create a planning scholarship for first generation college students. A planning scholarship is issued at least one year prior to a student's education abroad experience to guarantee them funding. Once issued the scholarship, they are given support and advising from the international office and others (office of diversity and inclusion) to select a program, work through the application process, and seek additional scholarships if needed.

Work with your admissions or financial aid office to identify and email a targeted population for grants with specific financial need requirements like the Gilman scholarship.

5

**Diversity & Inclusion Offices.** Target specific meeting spaces around campus with other offices, like the off-campus housing office or the student support centers, to offer meetings on study abroad topics at times outside of traditional working hours to allow students with other commitments, like families and jobs, more of an opportunity to attend.

Work with existing programs from your university's office of diversity and inclusion, or multicultural office to create programming specific for first generation college students.

Work with departments that focus on mentoring or peer advisement to target first generations students that may be interested in studying abroad.

# 6

**Additional Opportunities.** Take time to research and seek out offices on campus that you aren't currently engaged with, to meet and find cross sections within your support efforts.

Cultivate a group of study abroad returnees to act as ambassadors.

Attend internal university conferences to network, learn about initiatives on campus, and programs relevant to first generation college students.