

# Breaking Barriers

*Off-campus Options for DACA  
and Students with Various Immigration Statuses*

*Andrea W. Dvorak and Dulce Monterrubio  
Augsburg College*

# Introductions: Quick Poll

- Study Abroad office staff? Students? Other roles at an Institution?
- Study abroad/ Off-campus Study Providers?
- Other organizations?
- Experience working with:
  - DACA/undocumented students?
  - international students?
  - asylees/permanent residents, etc?

# Goals for this Session

1. Identify & understand immigration statuses/policies that many students see as a barrier to study abroad / off-campus study
2. Learn about domestic and international programs and scholarships that these students can access
3. Gain knowledge of tools and resources to assist in supporting and advising these students about off-campus programs

# Agenda

1. Statuses 101, with specifics on DACA
2. Programs & scholarships that can work
3. Tools and Resources: how to get started
4. Discussion questions with Handout
5. Q&A

# Before we start...

- Our purpose today is to inform you and provide resources, but...
- We are not legal professionals, so we will not give legal advice.

# Quick Facts about Augsburg

- Minneapolis, MN - urban campus with diverse population
- Small, private, liberal arts, Lutheran college
- 1,945 undergraduate, traditional students:
- 37 DACA students, over 90% receive MN DREAM Act state grant
- 33% students of color
- 65 international students

# Various Statuses... and DACA

# The Alphabet Soup

## Student Visa types

F-1

(J-1)

## Immigration Statuses

Refugee/Asylee

Permanent residents  
(green card holders)

DACA: Not a visa, a status, or a path to  
citizenship

# Students with various immigration statuses

**Refugees/Asylees:** Some work in advance, to prove to receiving country that the student will return.

**Permanent resident:** Must travel with passport for country of birth and green card. May need advance parole for longer programs

**International students:** Must travel with home country passport, visa, possibly transit visa

# DACA: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

- It's a *policy*, not a status
- Issued on June 15, 2012
- Provides temporary relief from deportation and other benefits to eligible undocumented youth
- Precarious: can be revoked at any time



# DACA: What it means for study abroad

Yes, DACA students can study abroad!

- HOW? Under the “educational purposes” provision of the policy and with appropriate documentation (Advance Parole)
- WHAT? A verifiable program that provides college credit, fulfills major/grad requirements, etc.

# DACA: What it means for study abroad

Yes, DACA students can study abroad!

- WHEN? Anytime - except during the DACA renewal period
- WHY? Academic, personal and career growth - same as any student!

# DACA: The Fine Print

## **Risks**

- If you travel internationally, re-entry is NOT guaranteed
- External factors you don't have control over
- Unknown impact on future immigration opportunities

## **Ownership**

- Who is responsible for gathering information, revising processes, providing support, making a decision?

## **Liability**

# Programs and Scholarships

# The Washington Center

- Academic Programs & Internships
- Ibrahim from Yemen (F-1)
- Benefits: Scholarships for Int'l students, no border crossing required



# Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute

Silvia, CHCI Intern, Spring 2015  
Junior, Business & Pol. Sci Major

## Reasons Silvia chose this program:

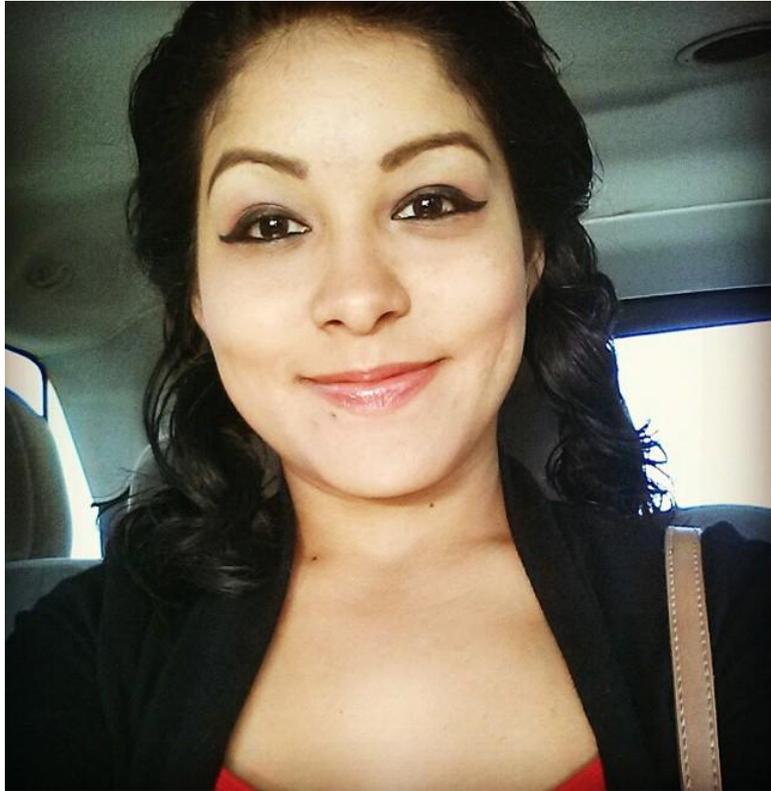
*I learned about the program through my own research. I chose to participate in this program because they are DACA friendly and focus on empowering Latinos which sounded like a pretty unique program to me. Some of the benefits are that I didn't have difficulties such as a language barrier or finding housing.*



# HECUA Programs in the USA

- Local immersion programs with integrated internships.
- Dare to Dream scholarship: \$2,100 really made it possible for students
- Key: “curated” internships where it is safe to disclose
- Flexible options: one student is taking 2 classes on campus, 2 in the program
- Internships this term address racism and engagement with the local Latino community
- Learning moment: Insurance issue

# HECUA Testimonial - Zitlali



Zitlali, HECUA, Spring 2015

Senior, Environmental Studies Major

On recommending the HECUA program:

*I would recommend this program to other dreamers because a lot of the issues that we have been covering affect Dreamers and our families. I also find it important that we learn how organizing works and the type of changes we can make as students in our government in order to change policies that could be beneficial to our status in the states and to the financial support we are able to receive for higher education.*

# HECUA Testimonial - Karla

Karla, HECUA, Spring 2015

Junior, Sociology and Metro Urban Studies Major

## Reasons Karla chose this program:

*I heard about the scholarship available to students in my situation and wanted to take advantage. Also [...] because of my possible interest in double majoring in Metro urban studies. Leah [Augsburg Abroad Director] as well as HECUA representative recommended it to explore that [...]. One last reason was because of my DACA status [...] I was finally able to do a study away program.*

# Dare to Dream Scholarship Poster

- Funding shared between HECUA and the college
- Imagery: symbols familiar to the community



BEGINNING SPRING 2015  
AUGSBURG  
& HECUA  
WILL  
OFFER A  
**\$2,100**  
off-campus study  
**SCHOLARSHIP**  
FOR ALL TWIN CITIES BASED HECUA PROGRAMS

*Dare to*

This scholarship is a brand new opportunity for Augsburg students, with enrollment for qualifying students **beginning in the spring 2015.**

- For MN DREAM Act applicants/recipients
- Offers guaranteed internships at local nonprofits
- Applies to HECUA Twin Cities Programs only
- Fulfills the "Augsburg Experience" requirement.

**DREAM**  
*Interested students may contact:*

Dulce Monterrubio  
[monterru@augsborg.edu](mailto:monterru@augsborg.edu)  
(Latin@ Student Services)

Augsburg Abroad office  
Christensen Center, Ste. 2

HECUA  
[hecua@hecua.org](mailto:hecua@hecua.org)



More information about HECUA's dynamic semester-long programs can be found at [www.hecua.org](http://www.hecua.org)

# Short-term International Programs

As with DACA, the key is notification - do students notify you? How do you serve them differently?

- Asylees: Work with host country to assure them of student return
- Legal Permanent Residents: Need to travel with birth country passport and green card.

# Other Scholarships

- First, check your state laws: Minnesota has the MN Dream Act, which offers undocumented students state financial aid.
- Washington Center
- Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute
- Hawkins Foundation (F-1 and DACA-friendly)

# Tools and Resources

# DACA Resources: Federal/National

- Department of Homeland Security
- US Citizenship, Immigration and Naturalization Services (USCIS)
- State resources like immigrant law offices, advocacy organizations, etc
- United We Dream: <http://unitedwedream.org/>



United We Dream

# DACA Resources: Higher Ed

- Undocumented Student Program at UC-Berkeley: <http://undocu.berkeley.edu/>



- UC Merced: Study Abroad for DACA  
<http://studyabroad.ucmerced.edu/how-apply/study-abroad-you/daca-study-abroad>

- Educators for Fair Consideration:  
<http://www.e4fc.org/>



# DACA: Institutional Allies

Serving DACA students is an institutional effort, so identify your ***allies!*** They are faculty, staff and administrators who are committed to:

- Learning about federal, state and institutional policies and their impact on DACA students
- Revising institutional policies & processes where necessary
- Serve as point-people and advocates

# Policy and Practice: Your Institution

- Get the numbers: Does your institution accept undocumented students who might be eligible? How many F-1, J-1, asylees, etc. are at your institution? Who serves them?
- What admissions/financial aid practices are in place for these students? What challenges do they face? How are they supported?
- What's the student profile at your institution? Which students is admissions looking for?

# Policy and Practice: Your Institution

- Talk to your institutions' legal counsel: how does your college see any risk/liability in serving DACA students?
- Broach the subject of study abroad for all these students: you want their backing!
- Make the case: Even though some students face more risk in studying abroad, all students should have equal access.

# Policy & Practice: Providers

- Marketing
- Flexibility
- Requirements such as health insurance
- Multi-country options
- Application Process
- Deadlines

# Policy & Practice: Study Abroad office

It IS possible!

- Marketing materials: imagery, language, offerings (national, international, local, etc)
- On-campus messaging: Do you voice support, offerings, and awareness - to all students?
- Advising materials: Is there a disclaimer? Process or checklist?
- Website/Application system: can students self-identify? Do you make it safe to do so?

# Feedback from Students

Silvia, CHCI Intern, Spring 2015

*Yes, I have considered studying abroad, however the lack of time and the long process of asking for permission to leave the country has stopped me from doing so.*

*Perhaps holding info sessions about how study abroad is possible for DACA but explain the process and time it takes to actually do so [would help DACA students] .*

Zitlali, HECUA, Spring 2015

*Being a DACA student does not mean that all of a sudden we have the same opportunities as students who are citizens, thus we still need a lot of information on how we can be a part of these study abroad programs and know that the directors and staff of these programs have the necessary knowledge about our situation to make this a great experience for all.*

# Policy & Practice: The Student!

Inform them:

- It IS possible, and you have multiple options!
- Risks: it is theirs, and they should consult legal counsel (have resources handy)
- Longer timeline, added cost: be prepared!
- Additional documentation: passport from their country of birth, visa, and Advance Parole (I-152L)

# Discussion and Q&A

# Handout & Discussion Questions

1. Identify three issues, policies, or processes in your office/program that may pose a barrier for DACA students. What are some possible solutions?
2. Do you know who might work with DACA students at your institution/organization? If not, how can you find them?
3. What are your next steps?

Final Questions?

# Thank you!

- **Andrea W. Dvorak**  
Assistant Director & Faculty-Led Programs  
Manager, Augsburg Abroad office  
[dvorak@augsborg.edu](mailto:dvorak@augsborg.edu)
- **Dulce Monterrubio**  
Director of Latin@ Student Services  
[monterru@augsborg.edu](mailto:monterru@augsborg.edu)