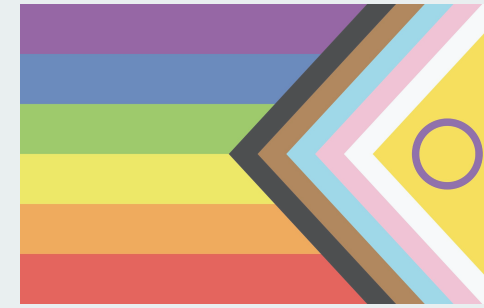


# Queer Abroad: Shedding New Light on Supporting LGBTQIA+ Students in Education Abroad



# Audience Poll Instructions

1. Open the Attendee Hub App or Webpage
2. Navigate to the session "Queer Abroad"
3. (On App) Scroll to the bottom where it says "Polls"
4. (On Webpage) Right-hand side should say "Polls"



# Audience Poll

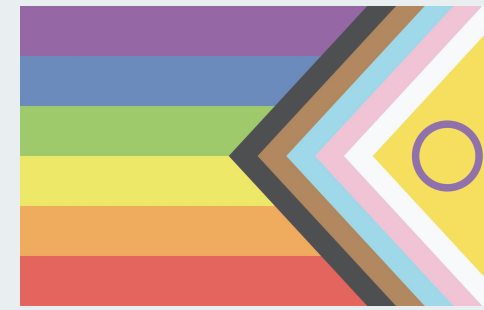
## How involved are you in advising students?

- I work directly with students.
- I manage those who advise students.
- I provide resources for advising students.
- I am not directly involved in advising.

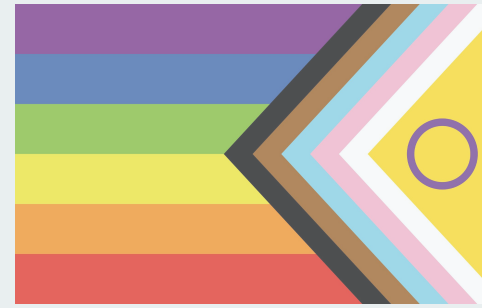


# About This Session

1. Understanding the current state of the field regarding LGBTQIA+ student mobility and pre-departure student support resources.
2. Reevaluating our understanding of what it means to be queer in an education abroad setting and reexamining existing institutional policies and support mechanisms for LGBTQIA+ student groups using information from research data.
3. Learning from the panelists and attendees about their practices and plans in supporting LGBTQIA+ students.



# Session Facilitators

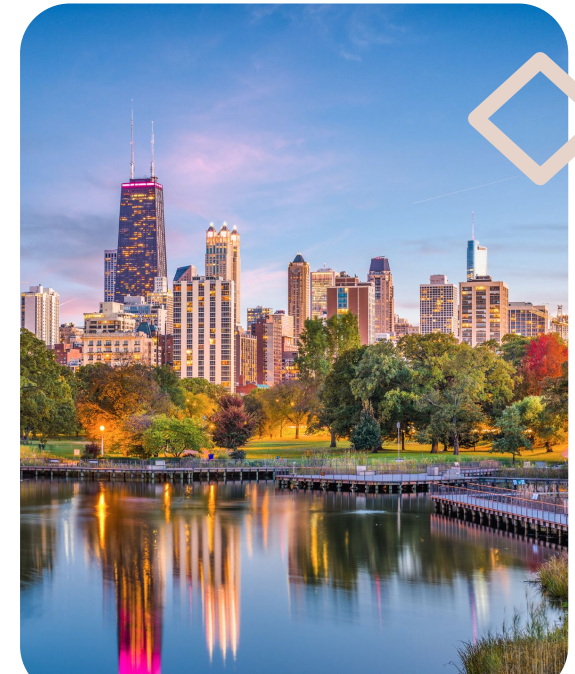


**Patrick Bingham**(he/him), Wake Forest University

**Tim Dohmen**(he/him), University of Minnesota

**Asia King**(she/her), Diversity Abroad

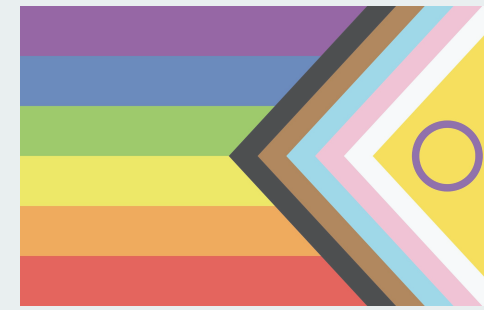
**Shawna Parker**(she/her), CEA CAPA Education Abroad



# Audience Poll

**How prepared do you feel you are to advise LGBTQIA+ students?**

- Highly Prepared
- Somewhat Prepared
- Undecided / Neutral
- Not Very Prepared
- Not at All Prepared





# Navigating Community and Identity



## Empirical Data

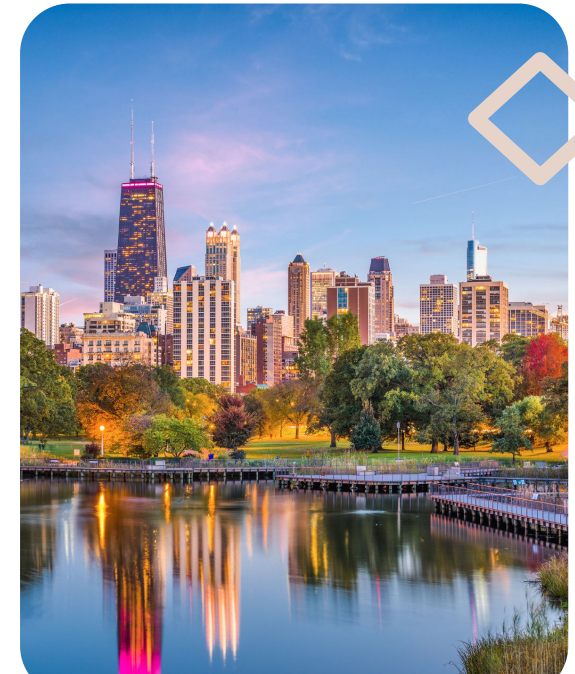
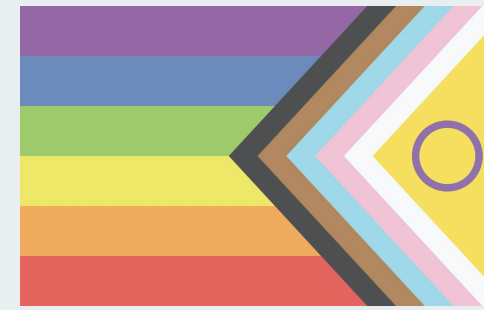


**GLOBALINCLUSION2023**

October 31 - November 3, 2023 • Chicago, IL

# Study Overview

- ❖ Developed out of findings from A Systematic Literature Review on LGBT+ U.S. Students Studying Abroad (Bingham et al., 2023)
- ❖ Qualitative Semi-Structured Interview format of current study abroad students and alumni
- ❖ Students registering interest: (n = 144)
  - Students interviewed (n = 26)
  - Three time points for students currently studying abroad; 1 time point for study abroad alumni
- ❖ Participant incentives





# Emerging Themes (General)

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- ❖ Queer now principal identity marker
- ❖ Community engagement low at home and abroad
  - Affinity groups
  - Organized activities
  - LGBTQIA+ community spaces
- ❖ Mixed-experiences with DEI programming
- ❖ Europe vs. Non-Europe

# Emerging Themes (General)

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- ❖ Primarily introverts
- ❖ No explicit guidance on being LGBTQIA+
  - However, did not seek out guidance
  - Recognized some available resources online.
- ❖ LGBTQIA+ media consumption high
  - Heartstoppers, Song of Achilles, Red White & Royal Blue
- ❖ Queer fashion and expression

# Audience Poll

**This data aligns with my experience advising students:**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided / Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree





# Gauging Study Abroad Offices and Providers for LGBTQIA+ Support



**GLOBALINCLUSION2023**

October 31 - November 3, 2023 • Chicago, IL

# Study Overview

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- ❖ Investigate the current state of queer student support
- ❖ Determine what current operating procedures are:
  - how they market, tailor programming
  - modes of support
- ❖ Methodology:
  - Mixed Methods Study
  - Survey instrument
  - Descriptive Statistics (Quant) -
  - Descriptive Analysis (Qualitative)



# Emergent Themes

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- ❖ Do not collect LGBTQIA+ demographic data
- ❖ Unsure why to collect LGBTQIA+ demographic data
- ❖ Disclosure often occurs during the advising session
- ❖ Study abroad systems connected to institutional SIS systems
  - typically do not record LGBTQIA+ demographic data

# Emergent Themes

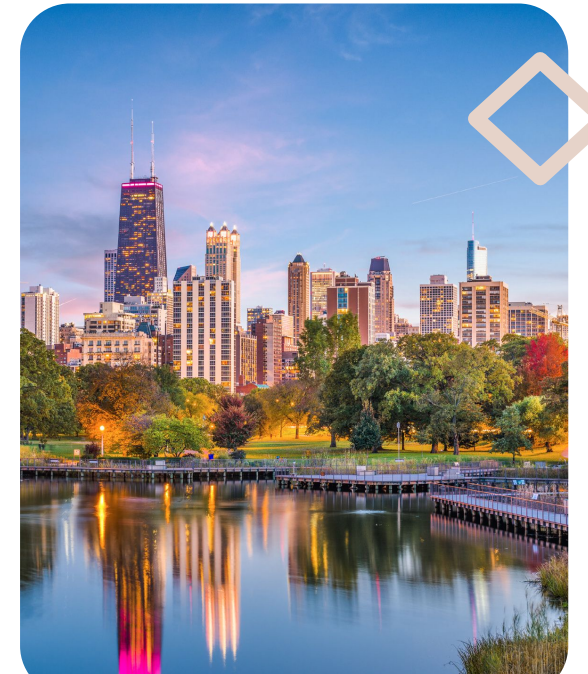
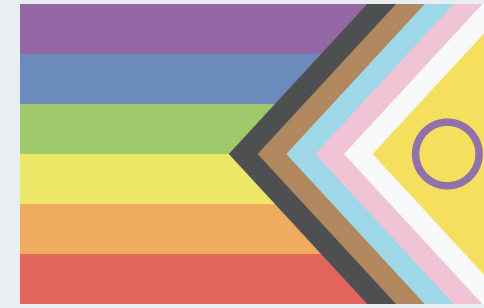
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- ❖ Internal notes on student record
- ❖ Rely on partners, online resources, and LGBTQIA+ centers on campus
- ❖ Embed LGBTQIA+ resources in pre-departure programming
- ❖ Queer Student connection programs
- ❖ Scholarships
- ❖ Country/region specific resources
- ❖ Organizations want further support guidance

# Provider Perspectives on Advising LGBTQIA+ Students

## Advising Challenges & Resources

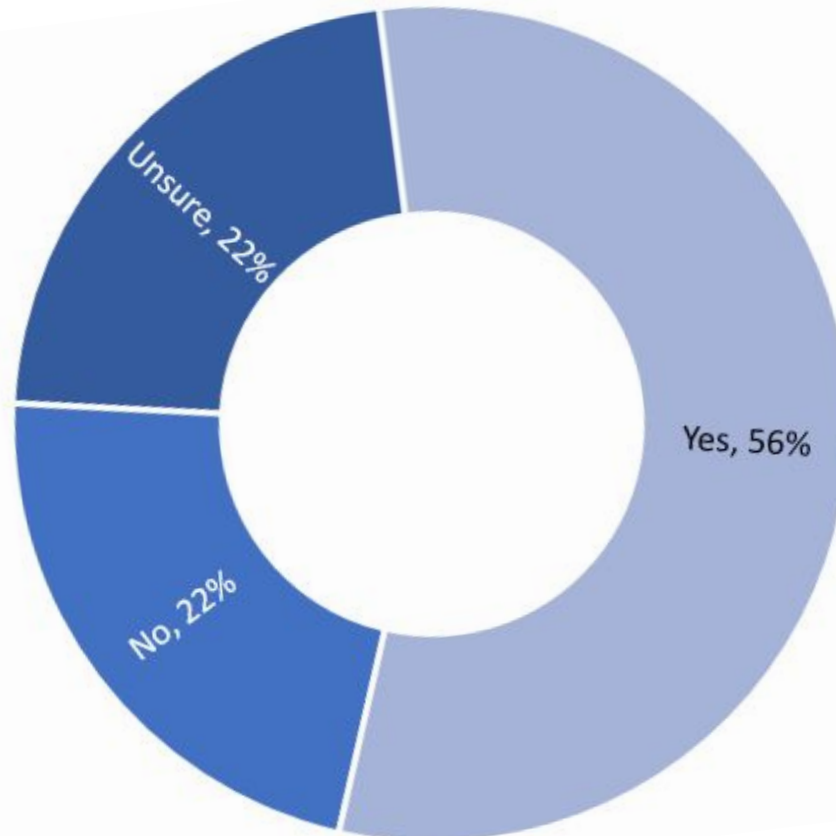
## Survey of Nine Study Abroad Providers



# Provider Perspectives on Advising LGBTQIA+ Students

Do you feel that your organization/institution has the resources that it needs to properly advise LGBTQIA+ students?

**Yes = 56%**  
**No = 22%**  
**Unsure = 22%**

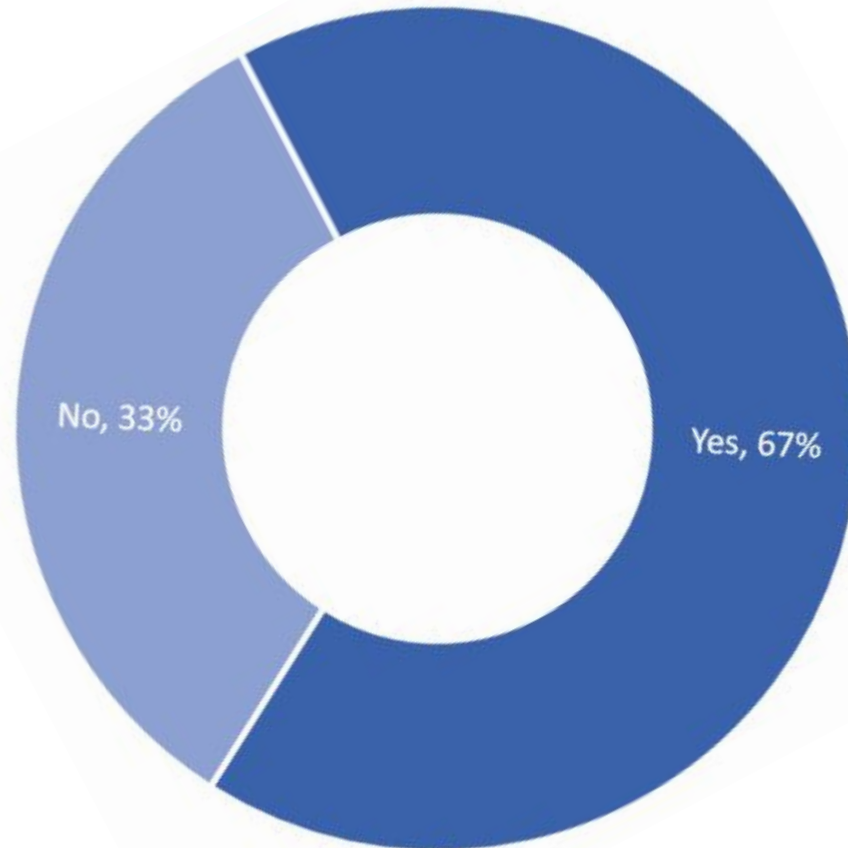


# Provider Perspectives on Advising LGBTQIA+ Students

Do you provide training for your staff on advising LGBTQIA+ students?

**Yes = 67%**

**No = 33%**





# Provider Perspectives on Advising LGBTQIA+ Students

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How do you provide advising resources for queer students?

sms  
individual\_advising  
email  
blog  
external\_resources  
website  
info\_sessions

# Provider Perspectives on Advising LGBTQIA+ Students

## Advising Challenges

- ❖ Disclosure of identity(ies)
- ❖ Shifting Legislation
- ❖ Traveling with Gender X Passports
- ❖ Safety abroad
- ❖ Keeping resources up-to-date
- ❖ Staff Training



# Institutional Context

## University of Minnesota–Twin Cities

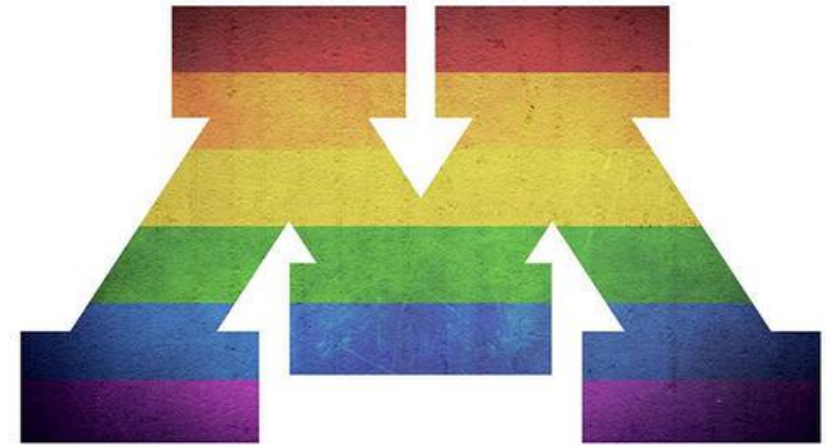
- ❖ Large Urban University in a politically progressive city and state
- ❖ Significant and visible campus efforts to support DEI including LGBTQIA+ students
- ❖ Residential, Co-curricular and curricular aspects of university life are LGBTQI+friendly



# Campus Resources & Support for LGBTQIA+ students

## University of Minnesota–Twin Cities

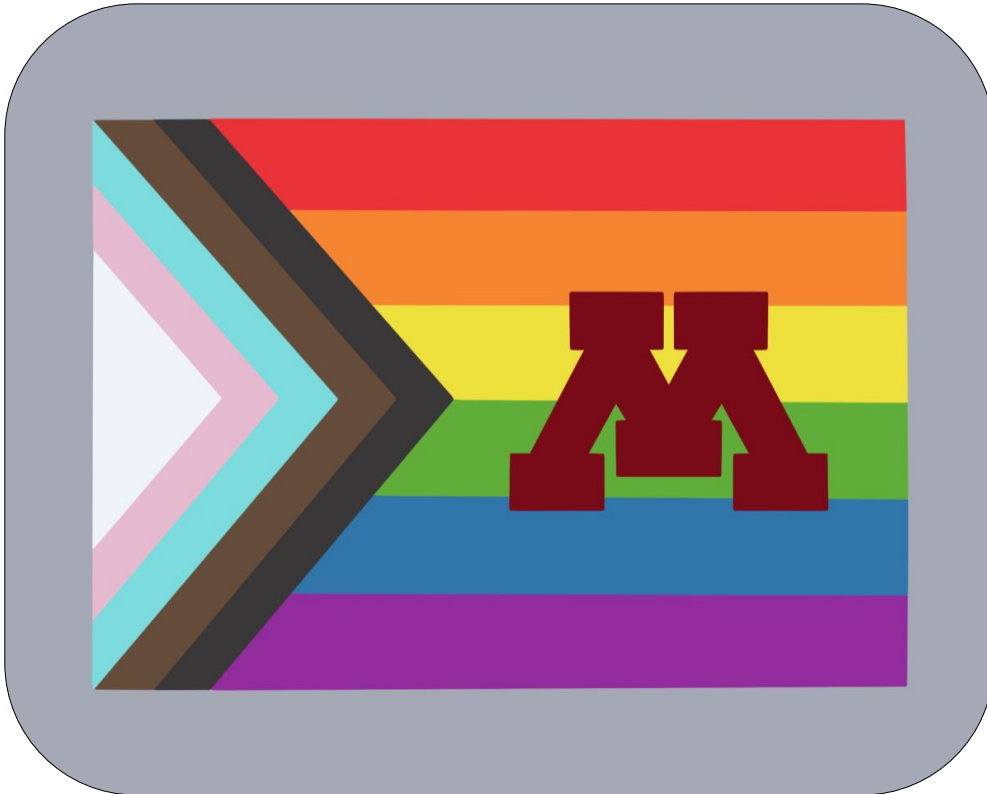
- ❖ Office of Equity & Diversity (OED)
- ❖ Gender & Sexuality Center (GSC)
- ❖ Queer Student Cultural Center
- ❖ Numerous student clubs and organizations
- ❖ Campus Events
- ❖ Trans- inclusive healthcare
- ❖ Gender neutral restrooms





# Campus Resources & Support for LGBTQIA+ students

## University of Minnesota–Twin Cities



- ❖ Academic Opportunities
- ❖ Collaborations between campus units and offices
- ❖ Decentralized support in colleges



# Learning Abroad Center Advising Approach & Practices

## University of Minnesota–Twin Cities

- ❖ Acknowledging and supporting all identities
- ❖ Most staff have had extensive DEI Training
- ❖ Option to request and choose a queer advisor
- ❖ Ongoing collaboration with GSC and OED



# Learning Abroad Center Advising Approach & Practices

## University of Minnesota–Twin Cities

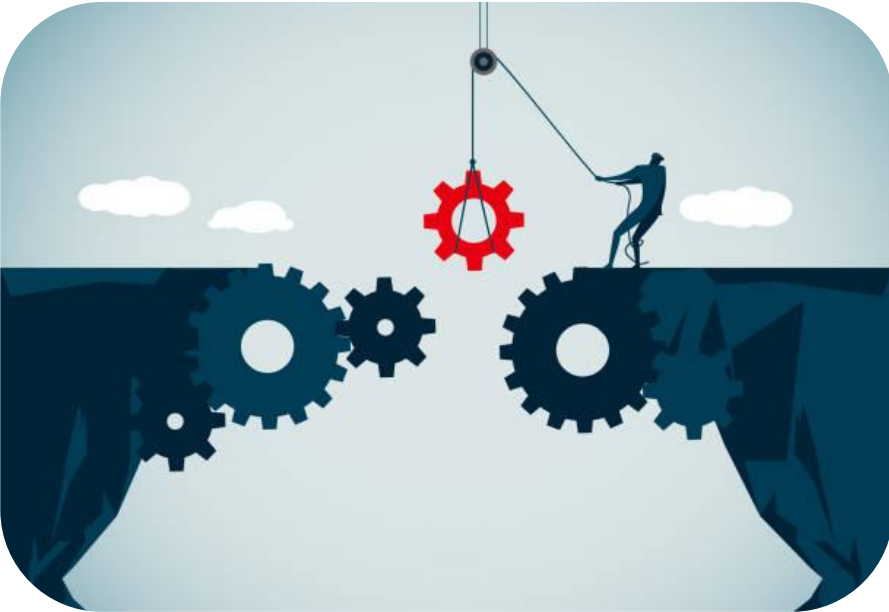
### Resources & Services

- ❖ Learning Abroad Center LGBTQIA+ website
- ❖ Online Preparation Module
- ❖ Destination advising for in-country safety and laws
- ❖ Destination advising for in country support/resources
- ❖ Ongoing connections/collaboration with OED and GSC



# Challenges and future considerations

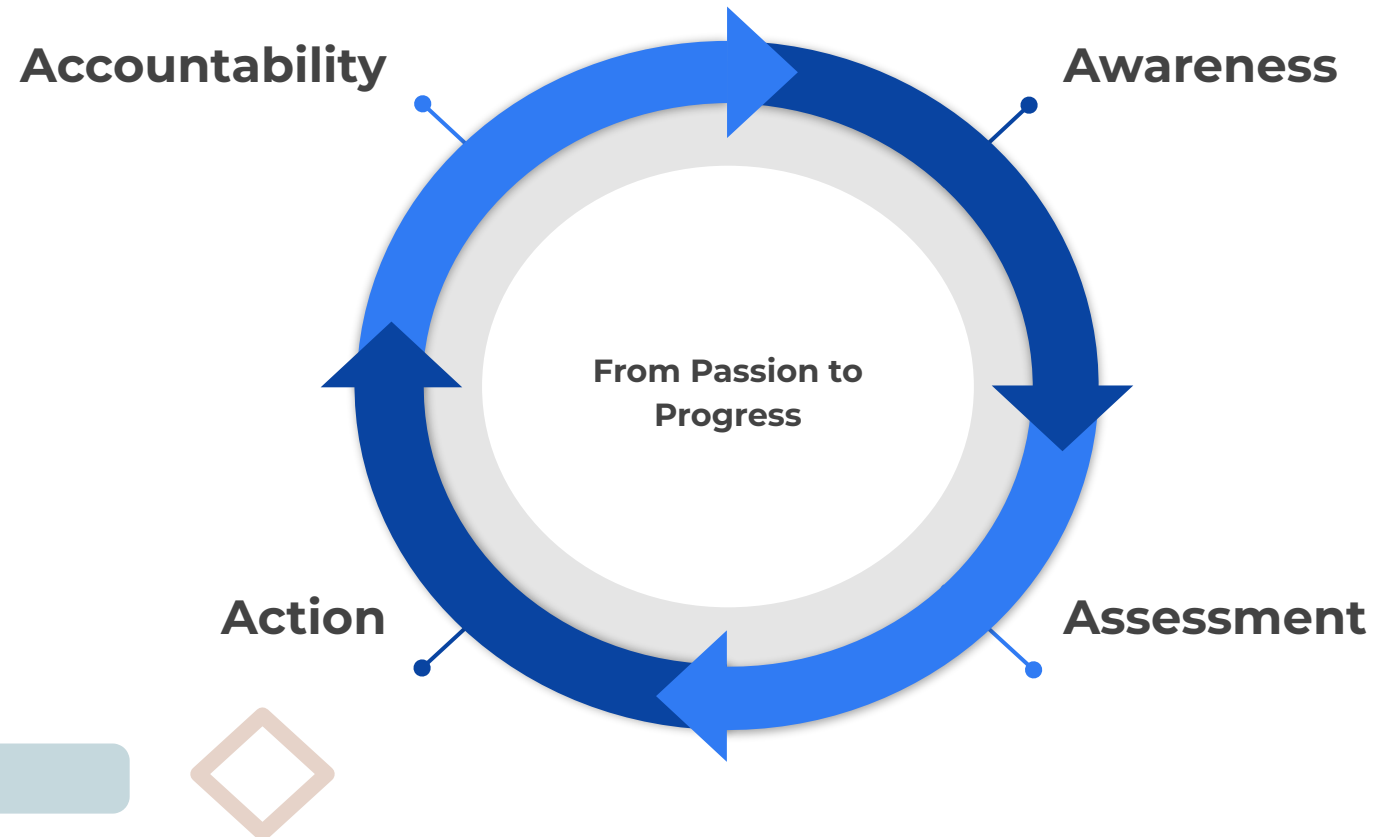
## University of Minnesota–Twin Cities



- ❖ How are we engaging LGBTQIA+ students?
- ❖ What tools and support do students need?
- ❖ Continually updating strategy
- ❖ Understanding our own LGBTQI+ participation data
- ❖ The work is ongoing

# Diversity Abroad: Our Approach

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# Characteristics of Effective Change to Support LGBTQIA+ Students

- ❖ Assessment → Data driven decisions
- ❖ Diversity initiative → Diversity and inclusion strategy
- ❖ Whole of organization approach to diversity and inclusive practices and policies
- ❖ Increased ownership and accountability of diversity and inclusion goals





# Resource Highlights

## **Institutional/Organizational**

Global Equity & Inclusion Guidelines for Education Abroad – [Public Overview](#)

## **Individual**

[Inclusive Advising for Education Abroad](#)

[Member Resource Library](#)

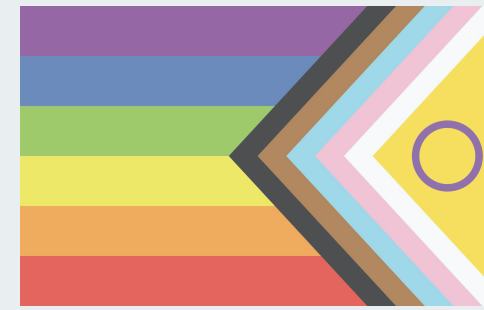


**SCAN ME**

# Audience Poll

## What has worked best for you in pre-departure advising LGBTQIA+ students (pick up to 3):

- Website Resources
- All-Student Information Sessions
- Mass Email
- 1:1 Email
- In Person 1:1 Advising
- Text (SMS)
- Queer Focused Advising Sessions & Information Sessions



# Activity



# Links to Study & Systematic Literature Review

QR Code to LGBTQIA+  
Students Navigating Identity  
and Community Abroad



QR Code to A Systematic  
Literature Review on LGBT+ U.S.  
Students Studying Abroad  
(Bingham et al., 2023)

