

International Programs

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Palacio Nacional, Mexico City

Julie Williams photo

PURPOSE

As an emerging world-class institution, Arizona State University seeks to interact with cultures throughout the world both from an intellectual and educational point of view. International Programs (IPO) endeavors to develop a global competence for students, faculty, and ASU as a whole. IPO therefore encourages students to study abroad, faculty to teach and conduct research in contact with scholars around the world, and academic units to develop fruitful forms of collaborative work with a variety of higher learning entities abroad.

The university, in its endeavors to fulfill these functions, takes notice of the rapidly changing conditions of the contemporary world. Canada and Mexico hold a special relationship as a result of proximity and membership in the North American Free Trade Agreement. Europe is developing as a supranational unit in the form of the European Community. The Pacific Rim constitutes one of the most dynamic economic regions of the world. All of these regions are interconnected through swiftly developing information channels, whose power is quickly changing the contours of higher education.

International Programs is administratively part of the Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost. Its functions include developing and administering university programs abroad, encouraging faculty participation in exchanges, and pursuing relationships with foundations and agencies intent on furthering the international character of ASU.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Two types of programs—study abroad and student exchange—are designed to enhance the international perspectives of students.

Study Abroad Programs. Study abroad programs are arrangements with educational institutions in foreign countries; ASU students can study in these institutions and, at the completion of their period of study—normally either a semester or a full academic year—earn ASU resident credit for the courses taken. Outgoing ASU students are charged a program fee, and arrangements are usually made for accommodations and other needs. ASU registration fee and tuition waivers are not normally applicable toward the costs of study abroad programs. Financial aid such as scholarships, grants, and loans may, in most cases, be applied to program costs. Once on site, ASU students may be placed in special classes created for them, or they may study alongside students from other countries.

Study abroad programs generally fall into one of three categories: language immersion programs, “island” programs, and programs in which courses are offered in English. ASU immersion programs, in which students learn the language of the host country with little or no previous

language knowledge, include programs in Germany, Israel, Italy, Mexico, and Portugal. “Island” programs are those in which students take courses taught in the host country’s language and frequently live with host families. The courses are designed to be offered to foreign (not host country) students. ASU offers such programs in France and Spain. Programs in which students can take courses taught in English are offered in the United Kingdom but may also be offered at certain institutions in non-English speaking countries.

Exchange Programs. Exchange programs are those in which a small number of ASU students may study at a foreign institution, in return for which students from that institution have a reciprocal opportunity to study at ASU. ASU students pay their normal registration fees and tuition at ASU. In general, ASU registration fees and tuition may be paid by scholarships or waivers. Financial aid may, in most cases, be applied to the costs of exchange programs. As in the case of study abroad programs, ASU students earn ASU resident credit on these exchange programs. Exchange programs offer students the chance to enter mainstream university life in the country of their choice. Normally participation in an exchange program is dependent on prior attainment of an adequate level of language competence to be able to function in classes in the host country.

In several instances, students may have the opportunity to undergo advanced-level intensive language instruction for approximately one month in the host country before the start of the academic term. The costs of these intensive language programs are not included in tuition and registration fees paid to ASU for an exchange.

In addition to Canada and Australia, ASU has exchange agreements in several countries in Latin America, Asia, and Europe. Program availability is under constant review.

Area Studies Programs. International Programs maintains close liaison with ASU’s area studies programs, including the Center for Asian Studies, the Latin American Studies Center, and the Program for Southeast Asian Studies, among others.

Related Programs. Close relationships are maintained with a number of academic units on campus. The Barrett Honors College cooperates in the creation of special programs for the benefit of its students. The Department of Languages

and Literatures assists in the staffing and management of a number of study abroad programs, especially those related to language acquisition. The College of Business maintains an advising service for College of Business students intending to study abroad. The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the Corporate Leaders Program also actively place students in study programs and internships around the world.

Procedures. Students interested in participating in such programs should identify their interests as soon as possible—in the freshman year if language learning is to be involved. Students should express their interests to the International Programs office in MOEUR 124; if need be, students are directed to other offices. It is essential to consult with a departmental program advisor, since the return of credits ultimately depends on the concurrence of the faculty advisors. Students on an official study abroad or exchange program retain the catalog status they held at the time of their departure.

Information on the status of programs can be obtained from the International Programs Office in MOEUR 124, from the International Programs Web page at ipo.asu.edu, or by phone at 480/965-5965.

Before participating in a study abroad or an exchange program, students are required to complete an information package. An interview is then conducted and students are later required to attend an orientation that may last more than one day. Program fees as applicable have to be paid and deadlines met. Students should keep themselves informed of any applicable refund procedures, noting that, since study abroad and exchange arrangements sometimes commit the university, refunds are not always possible in full or in part.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

International Programs seeks to encourage a wide range of other academic activities. These activities include exchanges of faculty members and the development of institutional relationships with universities overseas to encourage joint research projects. The office also assumes responsibility for a considerable number of visitors who come from overseas to visit the ASU campus.