



Resources from the State Department:

Building Back Study Abroad through Strategic Partnerships

Agenda

- Introduction
- ECA and USA Study Abroad Overview
- IDEAS Program Overview
- Grantees in Action
 - Ramapo College
 - University of Tennessee
- Study Abroad Engagement Grants
- Question & Answer Session



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Speakers

Heidi Manley, Chief of USA Study Abroad, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Ben Levy, Senior International Officer, Ramapo College of New Jersey

Adam Willcox, Research Associate Professor, University of Tennessee



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Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs



The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)'s mission is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange that assist in the development of peaceful relations. ECA is committed to fairness, equity and inclusion, and its programs strive to reflect the diversity of the United States and global society.



55,000 participants engage in exchange programs funded by ECA annually



15,000 American participants travel abroad on exchanges each year



101 U.S. public and private non-profit institutions funded



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[Exchanges.State.Gov](https://exchanges.state.gov)

USA Study Abroad



ECA's USA Study Abroad increases and diversifies U.S. study abroad through programs for both individuals and institutions. We help our future leaders gain the critical skills they need to advance U.S. national security and economic prosperity by:

- Offering study abroad opportunities;
- Building institutional capacity for study abroad; and
- Highlights the benefits of study abroad to individuals and the United States.

Americans studying abroad serve as citizen diplomats who connect with their peers, share U.S. cultures and values, and build the people-to-people relationships that are the bedrock of diplomacy.



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World Learning
EDUCATION | DEVELOPMENT | EXCHANGE

IDEAS
INCREASE & DIVERSIFY
EDUCATION ABROAD
FOR U.S. STUDENTS

The IDEAS Program



A program of the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, USA Study Abroad branch, implemented by World Learning.

Seeking to expand higher education institutions' capacity to grow and diversify study abroad programs for U.S. students

- Increase number of students studying abroad from underrepresented groups
- Increase the number of U.S. higher education institutions offering study abroad programs
- Expand study abroad to new overseas destinations, particularly those that are less common

2022 Grant Competition

- Approximately 40 grants of up to \$35,000

IDEAS Program Initiatives

- Virtual and in-person, open to everyone

U.S. Foreign Policy Goals



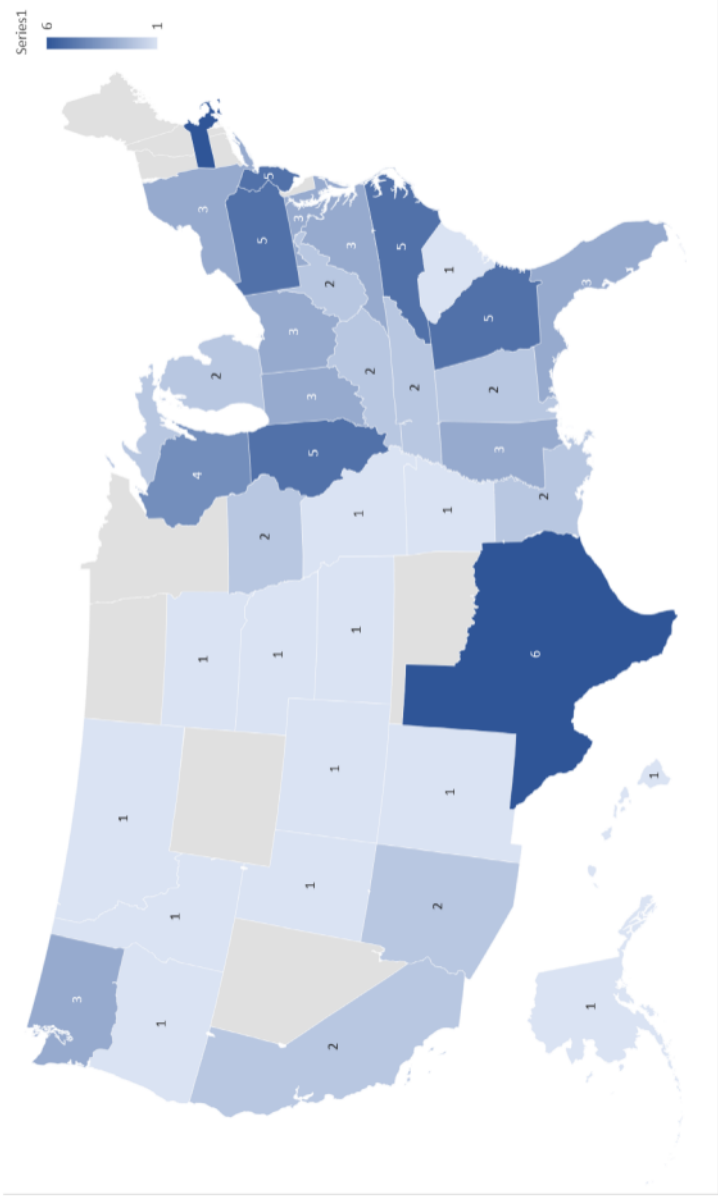
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USA Study Abroad

IDEAS Grantees 2016-2021

**116
Institutions**



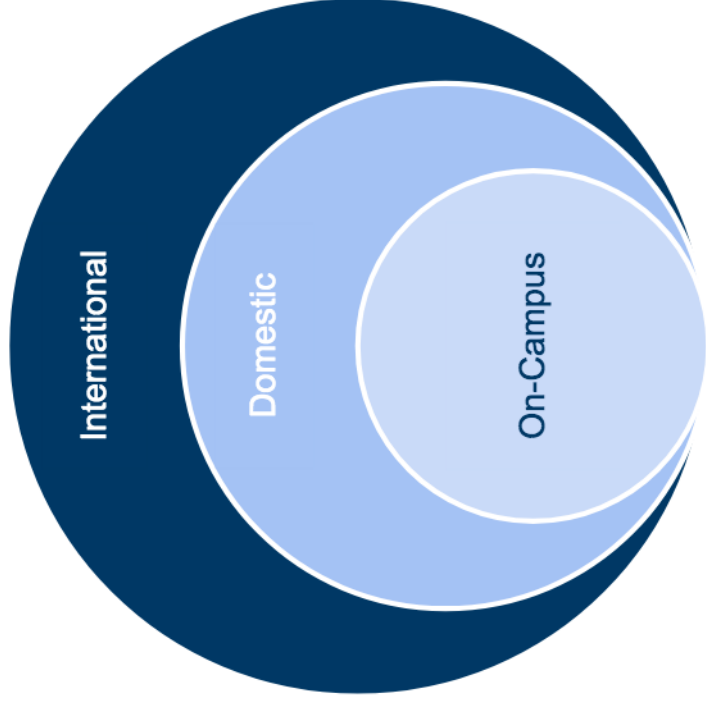
40 states +
District of
Columbia +
Puerto Rico



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IDEAS Grants Build Partnerships



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IDEAS Grantee Highlights



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Ramapo College of New Jersey

- Current enrollment: 5,742
- Comprehensive Internationalization Center
- Student Mobility: ~250/year*
 - *Pre-pandemic numbers
 - 4.5% of enrolled students; 16% by graduation
 - Surpass national and state benchmarks in student participation and diversity
 - Programs for all levels
- Recipient of IDEAS Grant in 2019:
Global Field Experiences



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Ramapo IDEAS Grant: Global Field Experiences

- Why we applied
 - Creating greater access
 - Strengthening diversity
- Design
 - Creativity in admin/finance structure
 - Diversity of programs & academic Interventions
- Implementation
 - Faculty engagement, training & support
 - New outreach/recruitment strategies
- Impact
 - Diverse student and faculty interest
 - Strengthened and expanded partnerships



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Ramapo IDEAS Grant: New/Expanded Partnerships

- Institutional Partnerships
 - Equal Opportunity Fund (EOF)
- Domestic Partnerships
 - Local South Asian communities (Jackson Heights, NY and Edison, NJ)
- International Partnerships
 - Ministerio de Salud, Provincia de Córdoba, Argentina
- ECA/DOS Partnerships
 - U.S. Embassy, Accra, Ghana



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USA Study Abroad

University of Tennessee

- 25,067 undergraduates
- Campus-wide Center for Global Engagement
- 1,301 students abroad pre COVID

Herbert College of Agriculture

- 1,452 undergraduates
- Smith Center for International Sustainable Agriculture
- Average of 60 students abroad pre COVID
- Minor in International Agriculture and Natural Resources



Recipient of IDEAS Grant in 2019:

Feed the 9.7 Billion: Preparing U.S. Students to Meet the Greatest Global Challenges in Argentina



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USA Study Abroad

University of Tennessee in Argentina

- Why Argentina?
- Why IDEAS?
- Study Abroad Development
- Research and extension partnership development



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University of Tennessee - Partnerships

- Institutional
 - School of Music
 - UT Tango Club
 - College of Vet Med
 - CGE Catalyst Fund
- International
 - Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (INTA)
 - Faculty of Agronomy at the University of Buenos Aires (FAUBA)
 - Administración de Parques Nacionales



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USA Study Abroad

University of Tennessee - Partnership Results

- Site visit December 2019
- MOUs
- Continued Zoom engagement
- Awarded funds for in-person conference
- Food Energy Water Network (FEWSUS)
- Argentine Tango 101: History, Society and Tango
- Winter mini term at UT established
- Study Abroad Winter term 2022-2023



IDEAS Program Activities

2022 Grant Competition

Webinars

Workshops



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Study Abroad Engagement Grants

- USA Study Abroad provides **Study Abroad Engagement Grants (SAEGs)** to U.S. embassies, U.S. consulates, and Fulbright Commissions for creative projects that strategically engage or support university partnerships and Americans studying abroad.
- SAEGs are often used to bring over a U.S. speaker to help universities and governments develop capacity on facilitating study abroad, and university partnership building.
 - **Look for our open calls for American experts for virtual and in-person programs!**
- Just as the IDEAS Program helps build domestic capacity for international partnerships, our SAEGs underscore the importance of also building foreign institutions' capacity to engage in exchanges.



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Sample Models for Building Overseas Capacity



- Promoting coordination and resource sharing between host-country universities
 - The U.S. Embassy and Fulbright Commission in Argentina Buenos Aires created an international coordinator position to lead training workshops, encourage internationalization collaboration among Argentine universities, and host events connecting U.S. and Argentine universities.
- Hosting capacity building workshops
 - U.S. Embassy Auckland hired expert speakers to host regional virtual panels and workshops on international education topics. When travel resumes, a visiting U.S. speaker will host a summit for international educators from Australia, Fiji and New Zealand.



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Global Trainings and Resources

In 2022, USA Study Abroad branch, Fulbright Portugal, and the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) will host a global webinar series on university partnerships open to all.

Topics will include sessions on:

- Making the Case for Internationalization and Partnerships During Covid-19
- Social Justice, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as Foundational for Building University Partnerships
- Building Your Campus Internationalization Strategy
- International Strategic Partnerships Models
- University Partnerships 101: Budgeting and Exploring Resources
- Supporting Short-Term Study Abroad Programs on Your Campus
- Supporting Collaborative Research and Faculty Collaborations
- Rebooting Older Partnerships: Tips and Strategies
- Tools and Strategies for Assessment



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Takeaways on Building International Partnerships

- Building institutional and domestic partnerships is a good first step to building international partnerships
 - Who in our network may have similar goals that we can combine resources with?
- Expand our definition of partnerships
 - Developing one program first can lead to other opportunities that lead to a wider, more “official” official partnership
 - Along with university partners, what industry, nonprofit, and government engagements can we build as well?
- Build capacity together
 - What resources and trainings can we provide for each other/ pursue together?

Stay connected with the USA Study Abroad, the IDEAS Program, and other embassy/ State Department contacts for opportunities to apply for funding and serve as trainers overseas.



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Thank You Questions?

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