

## Overview



- **Study Abroad opportunities are an integral part of the true well rounded, liberal arts education. Including, but not limited to:**
  - *MSU's Strategic Initiatives part 3.C...Create appealing global learning opportunities at home and abroad.*
  - COPLAC's mission statement
  - Recognized as a High Impact Practice in Higher Education
  - Contributing to the personal growth, intercultural development, and career attainment of our students
  - MSU serves as a national consortium leader with 9 other schools sending their students and faculty on our programs

## Overview



- Study abroad provides a “Value Added Component” to
  - *Students by:*
    - Providing opportunities for international study while earning 6 hours of academic credit
    - Allowing over 1,000 MSU students to study abroad since inception (1985)
    - Preparing our students for a global economy
    - Complementing the university Quality Enhancement Plan (EURECA) by completing original, in-depth international research papers or professionally related projects (photography, graphic design, theatre)
    - Changing lives through perspective and opportunity
  - *Faculty by:*
    - Providing faculty development through an international teaching experience with no cost to the university or faculty members

## Overview



- Study abroad provides a “Value Added Component” to *the university by:*
  - Supporting the globalization of the curriculum and fulfilling part of the strategic plan
  - Generating over 650 Semester Credit Hours (equal to roughly \$200K in just tuition & fees) during the 2016 summer terms with no expense to university other than original office overhead
  - Last summer, generated tuition and fees from over 30 students at partner universities that never sat foot on campus (over 200 in last 10 years) in addition to 85 MSU students.
  - Complementing the university Quality Enhancement Plan (EURECA) by having students complete original, in-depth research papers or professionally related projects (photography, graphic design, theatre)

## Overview



- **Midwestern currently leads a 9 school consortium, making it one of the largest study abroad consortiums in the country.**
  - **Leading this consortium heightens the profile and name recognition of MSU both nationally and internationally**
  - **Currently offer three international programs funded through our office:**
    - **British Studies Program (London)**
    - **Spanish Language Program (Granada, Spain)**
    - **French Language Program (Tours, France)**
  - **We also provide logistics support and oversight to two additional campus programs**
  - **These are sound, academic programs--not tours or vacations. These programs add to the well rounded liberal arts education and build valuable skills to our students as they prepare to enter an increasingly global marketplace.**

**Furthermore, at each individual student and faculty/staff capital campaign sessions, increased study abroad opportunities and scholarship funding were mentioned by the audience.**

## Best Practices



- **Good steward of university funds:**
  - **Whenever exchange rates are significantly more favorable, we prepay deposits toward our final bill. A good example of this occurred this year with our flagship London program and favorable exchange rates post Brexit.**
  - **Work with local travel agents to secure bulk airfare pricing, keeping overall cost lower.**
  - **All study abroad faculty travel/lodging/per diem is paid from program funds, not university budget.**

## Challenges

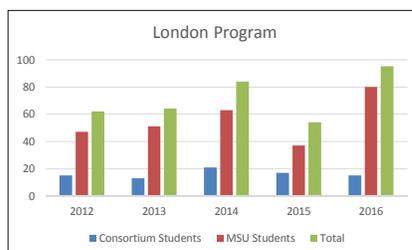
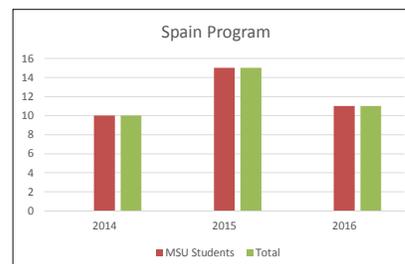
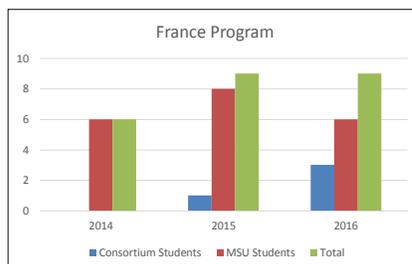


- **Scholarship Funding:**
  - \$50,000 is budgeted for MSU scholarships. Previously funded annually from dedicated international education fees, but now from Annual Fund.
  - Initial scholarship budget was setup to cover 50 MSU students studying abroad per year, each receiving a \$1,000 scholarship and has not increased in decades.
  - Last year there were 85 MSU students studying abroad, and the level of scholarships had to be reduced to make the budget stretch further. Additionally, we had to cover some scholarship overage from reserves, which is unsustainable.
    - The number one reason students who filled out preliminary paperwork and elected not to attend, did so due to lower scholarship amounts than in previous years.
    - Further reduction in scholarship awards will negatively impact the ability of many students to attend, so in effect, we are capping our own growth based upon the current scholarship budget.

\*Recruiting consortium member students is advantageous to the success of the program, because those students do not receive scholarships from MSU.

**\*When the study abroad enrollment grows, the university benefits from additional tuition/fee revenue with no additional expenses other than potential scholarships.**

## Program Enrollment Data



% of MSU students who participated in one of these programs who is either still enrolled (through Spring 2017) or has graduated from MSU:

France: 95% (all but one student)

Spain: 100%

London: 95.6%

*We believe this affirms study abroad as a high impact educational practice.*

## Opportunities



- Expansion of language based offering for students majoring or minoring in Spanish.
- Potential opportunity for Health Science & Pre-Med students to participate in a study abroad opportunity at a medical school on the island of Grenada.
- Study abroad opportunities are now available for all six academic colleges. Some classes in London have waitlists, so plans are being explored to increase the availability of those courses.
- Provide high impact, experiential learning opportunities for students in a way that research has proven is beneficial.
- If the number of students studying abroad grows, the university will see an increase in summer credit hour production.

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	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>
Total Staff Salaries (Director & Asst.)	\$110,437	\$110,437
Fringe Benefits	\$38,460	\$38,460
Longevity	\$1,100	\$1,100
Travel	\$14,931	\$15,931
Maintenance & Operations	\$5,918	\$7,418
Utilities	\$475	\$475
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$171,321</b>	<b>\$173,821</b>

\*\*In Summer 2016, study abroad accounted for \$199,138 of tuition & fees alone and university was not required to pay other expenses such as faculty per diem or travel expenses.

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	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>
Scholarships	\$50,000	\$95,000

**BUDGET REQUESTS**



## Critical Needs



- With current scholarship budget of \$50,000, we cannot afford to allow our overall participation numbers to rise from where they are now, and even current projected enrollment numbers for summer 2017 will require us to lower scholarship amounts given to each student and will require us to offset scholarships from reserve funds—*this is not a sustainable model*. When scholarship funds are increased to \$95,000, we expect to add Semester Credit Hour production to coincide with that growth through expansion of offerings.
  - ❖ We respectfully request a scholarship budget that grows alongside study abroad enrollment growth, which we believe is a better plan to accomplish the stated strategic goal of increasing international opportunities for our students. Also, it is proven that the students who participate in these programs are retained and/or graduate from our university at very high rates.
- We are poised and ready for growth but with potentially unsecure scholarship funding (based on soft money) and a scholarship budget based on previously lower participation numbers, it will inhibit our ability to grow.
  - ❖ Growth both can and should happen, but that growth inherently has risk involved and requires investment. Increased scholarship opportunities and guaranteed scholarship funds greatly minimize that risk and provides the necessary investment.

