
Study Abroad Committee – Meeting Notes

March 13, 2025

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Fullerton College – Building 800, Room 822

Present: Sergio Banda, Pamela Dunsmore, Danielle Fouquette, Cynthia Guardado, Angela Henderson, Naveen Kanal, Jaime Perez, Citlally Santana, Stephanie Tran, Carina Valencia, Dani Wilson

I. Welcome

- A. New committee member: Angela welcomed Cynthia Guardado to the committee.

II. Program Updates**A. Lisbon, Portugal (Spring 2025):**

- Twenty-two students currently participating. AIFS has been providing weekly reports on cultural activities and excursions. Several photos of Lisbon students shared with committee members. Amber Gonzalez and Deidre Hughes are currently leading this program.

B. Dublin, Ireland (Summer 2025):

- Twenty-eight students enrolled. Several students dropped right before the deposit deadline. Michael Mangan will lead this summer program.

C. San Jose, Costa Rica (Summer 2025):

- Fifteen students enrolled. The program is still moving forward this summer even though recruitment struggles. Jaclyn Magginetti will lead this summer program.

D. London, England (Fall 2025):

- There are eighteen students accepted, seven provisionally accepted, and fifteen new applications. Danielle Fouquette and Joshua Ashenmiller are leading this fall program. Angela explained provisional acceptance and eligibility requirements. DSS students may take a lower course load while studying abroad in the fall or spring. Students are encouraged to apply even if they are still completing study abroad requirements. Citlally Santana advises study abroad students on courses and grade replacement.

E. Paris, France (Winter Intersession 2025):

- There are six applicants. First winter intersession program since 2020. This program will be led by Justin Campbell and focusing on James Baldwin's work.

F. Seville, Spain (Spring 2026):

- We have received five applications. The program will return to Seville in 2026, following the last program in 2023. Leonor Cadena and Sergio Banda will lead this spring program.

G. Kyoto, Japan (Summer 2026):

- We have received fourteen applications. Mihoko Luther at Cypress College runs a Japanese club with 60-70 students, which may aid recruitment for the Kyoto program.

H. Berlin, Germany (Summer 2026):

- We have received two applications. The goal is to continue promoting this program. Kristin Mihaylovich will lead this summer program.

III. Spring 2025 Information Sessions

- Angela asked the committee to continue promoting information sessions this semester. Angela reported that promotion of the Grenoble program will begin once the vendor confirms specific cultural excursions and visits to technology related manufacturing sites.

Information Session Dates:

- **London, England (Fall 2025)**
Monday, March 17, 2025, 5:00 p.m. | Cypress College, Complex Room 419
- **Paris, France (Winter 2026)**
Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 4:00 p.m. | Zoom Meeting
- **Seville, Spain (Spring 2026)**
Monday, April 14, 2025, 5:00 p.m. | Cypress College, Complex Room 419
Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 5:00 p.m. | Fullerton College, 200 Building, Room 224
- **Berlin, Germany (Summer 2026)**
Monday, March 17, 2025, 5:30 p.m. | Cypress College, Complex Room 414
Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 5:00 p.m. | Fullerton College, 1000 Building, Room 1002
Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 5:00 p.m. | Zoom Meeting
Friday, April 11, 2025, Noon | Zoom Meeting
- **Kyoto, Japan (Summer 2026)**
Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 6:00 p.m. | Fullerton College, 200 Building, Room 229
- **Rome, Italy (Fall 2026)**
Monday, April 14, 2025, 6:00 p.m. | Cypress College, Complex Room 419
Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 6:00 p.m. | Fullerton College, 200 Building, Room 224

IV. Benjamin Gilman Scholarship

- There were fourteen applicants who applied for the March Gilman scholarship cycle. Three students had incomplete applications. The Gilman program is one of the largest Study Abroad scholarship in the U.S. Many of our past Study Abroad students have been awarded scholarships and have been recognized as a top Gilman producer.

- Angela reported that the Gilman program plans to freeze scholarship funding, possibly affecting future applicants. Only students who are already studying abroad will receive funds. The Gilman program pausing funding is highly concerning for future study abroad applicants.
- Other funding sources that are available to Study Abroad students include: Our local Study Abroad Scholarship, Fund for Education Abroad, on-campus fundraising, and AIFS scholarships. Staff and faculty are welcome to participate in an automatic payroll deduction. The monthly deduction is added as donation to the Study Abroad bursar's account. If interested, please complete the payroll deduction authorization form.
- Angela facilitates workshops and one-on-one meetings with students to review their Gilman scholarship essays. Past program faculty have also offered students their support in reviewing essay applications.

V. Faculty Training with AIFS

- Kory Saunders (AIFS) will lead diversity and inclusion training for faculty on Friday, March 14, at noon. Discussion topics include invisible barriers to study abroad and best practices for supporting students.

VI. Black Students Abroad – Umoja & Legacy

- Angela is collaborating with Annette Letcher and Queen Peterson to present on identifying the barriers African American students face. This aims to increase outreach and accessibility for underrepresented students.
- Angela and Carina have set a goal of offering drop-in hours to assist students with study abroad applications, passports, and provide program information.

VII. Fundraising & Subcommittee Volunteers

- Angela reported that no committee members have signed up to be part of the fundraising subcommittee. Fundraising needs have increased due to the potential loss of Gilman scholarship funding.
- The goal is to be able to award \$1,000 scholarships to study abroad students, rather than just \$500. Efforts include community engagement, donor outreach, and testimonial-driven email campaigns. Angela is exploring the possibility of large-scale donations from community organizations. There is a designated donation page for Study Abroad through the Friends of Fullerton College Foundation.
- Angela discussed how the fundraiser at Leonor Cadena's house last year was successful and provided up to \$12,000 in student scholarships. Several study abroad alumni were invited to the wine pairing dinner to share their study abroad experiences and academic journeys.
- Community Program Trips: Dani Wilson is revisiting the possibility of a community program with AIFS. Previous attempt failed due to high costs. Some of the cost embedded in the community programs includes support for student scholarships. We are

currently investigating running a “James Balwin in Paris” program over spring break or in the 7-10 days between spring and summer session.

VIII. See’s Candy Fundraiser

- Students received unique links to sell See’s Candy online. Proceeds go directly to the students participating in the Costa Rica and Dublin summer programs.
- [See’s Candy Fundraising Link](#)

IX. 2027 Programs – Faculty Applications

- There was high interest this year; more faculty applied than available program slots. Faculty who considers a semester-long program are encouraged to pair up with another faculty member.
- Angela explained the proposal cycles, which includes a general a call in November, application deadline in February, and faculty interviews in March.
- Dani proposed hosting a meet & greet for faculty interested in submitting study abroad program proposals.

2027 Study Abroad Programs:

- **January 2027:**
 - Buenos Aires, Argentina (English) – Dr. Annette Letcher, Cypress College
 - Sydney, Australia (Drone Technology – Short-term CTE Pilot) – Jay Seidel, Fullerton College
 - Rome, Italy (English) – Miguel Powers, Fullerton College
 - **Spring 2027:**
 - Cannes or Paris, France (French & English) – Catherine Reinhardt & Samantha Krag, Fullerton College
 - **Summer 2027:**
 - Paris, France (Counseling & Career Development) – Olivia Barajas, Fullerton College
 - Seoul, South Korea (Geography) – Eric Bladh, Cypress College
 - **Fall 2027:**
 - London, England (English & Political Science) – Blythe Tellefsen & Jodi Balma, Fullerton College
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Meeting Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.