
Study Abroad Committee – Meeting Notes

Thursday, April 10, 2025

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Fullerton College – Library, 800 building, Room 822

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

I. Welcome

II. Public Comment: Limit to 3 minutes per person: No public comment.

III. Coordinator's Update:

A. Lisbon, Portugal (Spring 2025):

- Angela reported that the Lisbon program is going well. Dani conducted the site visit in late March. Dani shared that students are highly engaged and connected in Lisbon. AIFS has three program managers supporting our students and faculty. The housing is nice; all the students live in the same area. Each student has their room, which is very desirable. Students have access to kitchen facilities with ovens, stoves, and fridges. Students have been providing positive feedback about their experience in Lisbon.

B. Dublin, Ireland (Summer 2025):

- Twenty-six students are participating in the program. A pre-departure meeting has been scheduled for early May 2025.

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

- Fourteen students are participating in the program. Although enrollment is low, the program is still moving forward.

D. London, England (Fall 2025):

- Thirty-four accepted, and provisional students are participating in the program. The meet-and-greet is next week. During the meet-and-greet, Angela will go over the homestay and student residence options and scholarship support. Faculty are planning to hold a follow-up event during the summer to meet with all the London students.

E. Paris, France (Winter Intersession 2026):

- There are fourteen applicants. Interviews have been scheduled for Friday, April 11, and additional interviews will be conducted in May.

F. Seville, Spain (Spring 2026):

- Six applicants. The information sessions for Seville will be next week, on April 14 and 15.

G. Berlin, Germany (Summer 2026):

- Two applicants have applied. In May, there will be additional information sessions on Zoom.

H. Kyoto, Japan (Summer 2026):

- Twenty-four applicants have applied. Interviews have been scheduled for late April and early May.

I. Grenoble, France (Summer 2026):

- No applicants. In April, there will be an information session for the Grenoble program.

J. Rome, Italy (Fall 2026):

- Two applicants. The information sessions for Rome will be on April 14 and 15 next week.

K. Study Abroad Coordinator Endorsement:

- Angela is up for election and will run again for the study abroad coordinator position. The election will take place on April 17. If interested, faculty can individually attend the academic senate to make their endorsement.

L. Academic Senate and PAC Reports:

- Angela plans to do her dual report on April 17 and April 23. Angela will provide updates during both meetings. One item of discussion is the ongoing work of increasing Black student participation in study abroad since it is still low. Angela will share her presentation for the study abroad workshop in collaboration with the Umoja program.

M. Forum on Education Abroad Conference Update:

- In March, Carina attended the Forum on Education Abroad conference in Toronto, Canada. The conference is centered on education abroad and international education. Carina shared the various workshop sessions she attended focusing on diversity and equity-oriented approaches in support of first-generation and underserved students, strategies to support transgender and nonbinary students, recruitment and outreach strategies, and sessions that offered information on how to design and implement high impact study abroad programs. Carina also shared how much of the discussions in most workshops was a response to the ongoing

and fast policy changes occurring within U.S. higher education and how that is affecting global learning opportunities.

N. Study Abroad Applications:

- Angela reported that Formstack wasn't renewed through the district and no longer has access to Formstack. Stewart Kimura from the counseling department helped pull all the student data from Formstack. Carina set up an alternative application form through Microsoft form. Carina is working on transition the Microsoft form to using the district's electronic form platform on NextGen/Dynamic Forms.

O. 2025 Go Abroad Innovation Awards:

- Angela announced that the NOCCCD Study Abroad program is a finalist for the 2025 Go Abroad Innovation Awards in the following category: Innovation in Community College Programming. Fund for Education Abroad sponsors the award. The Go Abroad Innovation award will be announced at the NAFSA Annual Conference in May 2025. This award is in response to our Manufacturing program in Germany last year.

P. Study Abroad Scholarship:

- Angela mentioned changing the AIFS scholarship application format due to low applicants. One suggestion is to draw from the AIFS applications to select applicants for our scholarships from our passthrough account through the Friends of Fullerton College Foundation. Angela offered a workshop and did one-on-one meetings for the Dublin and Costa Rica students to review their scholarship essays. For the Dublin program, only one student applied, even though Angela worked with other students considering applying.
- Cynthia Guardado suggested keeping students on track with a schedule to motivate them to apply. Change the letter of recommendation requirement to a quick questionnaire for faculty to respond. Cynthia also suggested getting student testimonials on the scholarship process.
- Danielle Fouquette suggested using Pronto through Canvas to communicate with students and alert them about AIFS scholarship and other scholarship opportunities. Another suggestion was to make a video announcement rather than sending scholarship information via email.
- Another idea mentioned is to allow students to work on one application for various scholarships. For example, if a student applies for the Gilman, they can also enter our scholarships, so students do not have to submit multiple application forms.

- Angela shared her concerns regarding Gilman funding since it comes from the U.S. federal government based on whether a student is a Pell Grant recipient. Angela has been receiving email updates and is waiting to hear back regarding the students who applied for the Gilman scholarship for the summer and fall 2025 semesters.

Q. **Community Program:**

- Dani announced offering a community program that is James Baldwin-themed for staff, faculty and community members. The goal is to offer the opportunity again after not being able to do the 2023 community program in Italy. The community program will help raise awareness of the student experiences while studying abroad.
- Justin Campbell is willing to help facilitate community program activities that are James Baldwin themed, since he is leading a study abroad program in Paris, France during winter intersession 2026. Our vendor, AIFS, has agreed to help plan the community program. Angela and Dani still need to meet with the program manager who is designing the community program to review the program components.
- The main goal is for staff and faculty to experience the community program and encourage them to donate rather than build in the fundraising fee through the community program fees. Another idea suggested is to ask for a minimum donation if any staff or faculty want to add more after paying a general donation fee through the community program fees. The donations will provide support for student experiences studying abroad. Another idea is doing a donation tier like the one created for the 2024 fundraiser campaign.
- The community program is initially in the beginning stages and may possibly run in Spring Break 2026 or Summer 2026. Early summer might be easier for staff and faculty, since it is right after commencement and right before summer semester begins.

R. **Information Sessions**

Paris, France Winter Intersession 2026 – Information Session

Wednesday, April 16, 2025 | 4:00 p.m. | Zoom Meeting

Seville, Spain Spring 2026 – Information Session

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 – Information Session

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 | 5:00 p.m. | Zoom

Friday, May 16, 2025 | Noon | Zoom

Grenoble, France Summer 2026 – Information Session

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 | 5:00 p.m. | Fullerton College, 900 building, Room 903

Rome, Italy Fall 2026 – Information Session

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

S. Study Abroad May Committee Meeting:

- The Study Abroad Committee meeting in May will be canceled due to it being on the same day as the Humanities Tea event. Angela will follow up and provide email notes to the committee for May 2025.

Meeting Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.