

Study Abroad Committee
Meeting Notes
Thursday, April 9, 2026
4:00 - 5:00 PM
In-Person – Building 800, Room 822

Members Present: Michael Mangan, Dani Wilson, Carina Valencia, Pamela Dunsmore, Naveen Kanal, Jaime Perez, Miguel Powers, Alyssa Sandoval, Stephanie Tran, Penn Wu

Members Not Present: Cynthia Guardado, Citlally Santana

- I. **Paris, France Review – Winter 2026 Program – Justin Campbell**
 - a. Mike read Justin Campbell's report in his absence.
 - b. Justin shared very positive feedback about the AIFS Paris team, noting they went above and beyond in supporting both students and faculty.
 - c. Areas of improvement identified:
 - i. Classroom technology was lacking and should be improved.
 - ii. Course content and assignments may benefit from adjustment for short-term programs.
 - iii. For short-term programs, Justin suggested reducing the number of excursions to allow students more free time for independent exploration.
 - d. Additional recommendations:
 - i. Begin student recruitment earlier for short-term winter intersession programs.
 - ii. Encourage students to keep a travel journal as part of the program experience.
 - e. Justin expressed strong interest in leading a full-term study abroad program in the near future.
- II. **Study Abroad Scholarship Update – Dani Wilson**
 - a. Dani provided an overview of the annual study abroad fundraiser, clarifying how funds are raised and distributed.
 - b. All scholarship funds raised go directly to study abroad students.
 - c. John Walker Scholarship: This is an endowed scholarship administered through the Friends of Fullerton College Foundation.
 - d. Dani emphasized continuing to host the study abroad fundraiser on campus, as it is more efficient and easier to plan.
 - e. The committee was encouraged to provide support and participate in future study abroad fundraising efforts.
 - f. Planning for the 2026 study abroad fundraiser will begin during the summer.
 - g. The 2026 fundraiser is tentatively scheduled for October/November 2026.

- h. Dani is waiting to hear back from Lisa Nashua and John Guthrie to confirm scholarship award amount and clarify guidelines and procedures moving forward.
- i. The study abroad scholarship may be awarded biannually, pending confirmation from Lisa Nashua's office.
- j. Additional updates will be shared with the committee once more information becomes available.

III. **Coordinator's Updates – Michael Mangan**

IV. **2026 Program Updates**

a. Berlin, Germany – Summer 2026

- i. 28 students enrolled.
- ii. Meet & Greet scheduled for April 29 to discuss roommates and program expectations.
- iii. Three students have withdrawn due to personal or financial reasons.
- iv. Mike noted increased student anxiety to current ICE-related concerns with international travel.

b. Kyoto, Japan – Summer 2026

- i. 25 students enrolled, and 7 students on the waitlist.
- ii. Mike contacted AIFS to explore the possibility of adding additional students from the waitlist.
- iii. Flights for this program have increased significantly, costing over \$2,000 per student.

c. Grenoble, France – Summer 2026

- i. 10 students accepted.
- ii. Application deadline: Tuesday, April 14
- iii. Enrollment details:
 - 1. 3 students have submitted their deposit payment.
 - 2. 2 students have begun their application.
 - 3. Mike expressed concern about low enrollment close to the deadline.
 - 4. Contributing factors may include:
 - a. Grenoble, France being a lesser-known destination.
 - b. The program's short 10-day duration.
 - c. Higher than normal program cost for a short-term program.
 - 5. Mike noted continued institutional commitment to expanding CTE study abroad programs despite challenges.

d. Panama City, Panama – Summer 2026

- i. Panama program cancelled due to low enrollment.
- ii. This program was unique in that it did not follow the standard faculty proposal approval process. The program was granted special permission to proceed in collaboration with UMOJA.

e. Rome, Italy – Fall 2026

- i. 35 students accepted and 13 provisional students.
- ii. 2 students are on the waitlist.
- iii. High student interest overall.

- iv. Meet & Greet held on April 7, with 25 students in attendance.
- v. Mike reported strong enthusiasm and engagement from students.

V. 2027 Program Updates

a. Rome, Italy Winter 2027

- i. 15 applicants
- ii. Interviews scheduled for early May 2026
- iii. Zoom Information Session on April 16

b. Sydney, Australia Winter 2027

- i. 17 applicants
- ii. High student interest, particularly from students participating in the Drone/CTE programs.

c. Buenos Aires, Argentina Winter 2027

- i. 4 applicants
- ii. Program currently experiencing low applications.
- iii. Mike shared that his winter 2019 Buenos Aires program faced similar challenges.
- iv. Recruitment is still early, and there remains time for students to submit applications.
- v. Zoom Information Session on April 30

d. Nice, France Spring 2027

- i. 20 applicants
- ii. Strong interest in the number of applications that have been received.
- iii. Zoom Information sessions scheduled for the Nice program on May 7.
- iv. Recommendation made to record Zoom info sessions and post them on the website for students who apply during the summer.

e. Paris, France Summer 2027

- i. 3 applicants
- ii. Program posters are expected to arrive in late April.
- iii. In-person information session scheduled for April 14.

f. Seoul, South Korea Summer 2027

- i. 7 applicants
- ii. Program posters are expected to arrive in late April.
- iii. In-person information session scheduled for April 9
- iv. Early student interest with the number of applications received.

g. London, England Fall 2027

- i. 1 applicant
- ii. Program posters are expected to arrive in late April.
- iii. Jodi Balma has a recruitment pipeline through the Honors Program and with new incoming freshmen.
- iv. In-person information session scheduled for April 29

VI. 2028 Programs

- a. Mike shared that he has begun meeting with faculty who are leading a 2028 study abroad program. Discussions include course offerings, program design and structure, and faculty roles and responsibilities.

- b. **San Jose, Costa Rica – Winter 2028**
 - i. Faculty: Roman De Jesus and Royden Hobbs
- c. **Seville, Spain – Spring 2028**
 - i. Faculty: Leonor Cadena and Miguel Powers
- d. **Kyoto, Japan – Summer 2028**
 - i. Faculty: Penn Wu
- e. **Dublin, Ireland – Summer 2028**
 - i. Kim Vandervort
- f. **Florence, Italy – Fall 2028**
 - i. Faculty: Gary Graves and Silvie Grote

VII. Announcement and Updates:

- a. Mike was elected as study abroad coordinator and will complete the final two years of Angela's term, ending June 30, 2028.

Spring 2026 Committee Meetings:

- ~~Thursday, February 12, 2026~~
- ~~Thursday, March 12, 2026~~
- ~~Thursday, April 9, 2026~~
- Thursday, May 14, 2026 – format to be determined (email update or in-person meeting)

Meeting adjourned on 4:40 pm