

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION ACAF Academic Affairs		POLICY NUMBER ACAF 2.08
POLICY TITLE Faculty/Staff-Led Overseas Programs for Students		
SCOPE OF POLICY USC Columbia		DATE OF REVISION June 13, 2023
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost		ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE Office of the Provost

PURPOSE

This policy establishes the protocols for creating faculty/staff-led international programs for undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. This policy does not relate to academic major degree programs that are conducted internationally.

DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy, the terms abroad, overseas and international refer to any location outside of the fifty United States of America and District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.).

POLICY STATEMENT

The University of South Carolina encourages faculty and staff members to create and lead programs that provide students with international educational opportunities. These opportunities include credit-bearing courses with an international component as well as non-credit bearing international travel programs.

- A. Proposals for all credit-bearing or non-credit bearing faculty/staff-led international programs for students shall be reviewed and approved by the International Program Approval Committee (IPAC) based upon established criteria, which should include:
 - 1. For all international programs:
 - a. Departmental support
 - b. Anticipated cost of the program
 - c. Safety of the program destination and program activities
 - d. Program leader expertise and program subject matter compatibility
 - e. Program leader experience
 - 2. For credit-bearing international programs
 - a. Academic merit

- b. Compatibility of academic focus and destination
- B. The International Program Approval Committee is chaired by a Vice Provost with oversight of Global Carolina. Other committee members include, but are not limited to, the Director of Education Abroad and one or more representatives from the university faculty. Committee members are appointed by the chair of IPAC.

PROCEDURES

A. Overseas Program Development and Approval Process

1. To develop a faculty/staff-led international program for students, the program developer follows the procedures established by the Education Abroad Office for the development of an international program.
 2. To obtain approval for the international program, the program developer submits a completed international program proposal form by the established deadline to the Education Abroad Office, which will forward the proposal to the International Program Approval Committee.
 3. IPAC returns approved proposals to the Education Abroad Office, which communicates the Committee's initial approval to the program developer. Initial approval allows the program developer to proceed with the next steps of the development process.
 4. Once the program is approved by IPAC, the program developer submits a contract between USC and any service provider or overseas partner institution with an accompanying Contract Approval Form to the Education Abroad Office by the established deadline. The Education Abroad Office will route the contract through the Office of the Provost, the Office of General Counsel, and the Board of Trustees for approval.
 5. Upon receipt of a copy of the service provider/overseas partner institution contract approved by the Board of Trustees, the Education Abroad Office communicates final program approval to the program developer and to the sponsoring Department, School, or College. Program deposits may not be collected from students, and payments to the service provider may not be made, prior to the program developer receiving this final approval.
- B. Throughout the duration of the program, program leaders are required to comply with the relevant policies, procedures, and guidelines outlined in the Education Abroad Office's Global Classroom Handbook. IPAC may revoke approval of an international program if the leader(s) fail to comply with the Global Classroom Handbook and/or other university policies and regulations.
 - C. University faculty and staff must receive approval from IPAC to lead an international credit or non-credit educational program for students. Faculty or staff non-compliance are subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

RELATED UNIVERSITY, STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES
[ACAF 2.00 Creation and Revision of Academic Programs](#)

HISTORY OF REVISIONS

DATE OF REVISION	REASON FOR REVISION
June 4, 2013	New policy approval
May 5, 2017	Office name change and committee composition.
June 13, 2023	Updated to standard template and update to current practices
June 25, 2024	Overseas Program Approval Committee name changed to International Program Approval Committee.