

Approved by the Board of Trustees
January 21, 2016

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Board Meeting
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DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

Action: Delegate Authority to Establish Study Abroad Programs

Funding: No New Funding Required

The purpose of this Board Item is to facilitate a centralized and efficient manner for establishing study abroad programs at the University of Illinois that are in compliance with the increased oversight and regulation of such programs.

Study abroad programs are vital to creating globally competent students who export our land grant mission in a responsible, cross-cultural manner. The campuses provide rich learning experiences tailored to their student bodies.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign annually sends more than 2,100 students to more than 60 destinations abroad, providing more than 200 program options. The Institute of International Education's *2014 Open Doors Report on International Education Exchange* ranks the Illinois campus 15th nationally in the number of study abroad students. The Urbana-Champaign campus also offers more than 40 faculty-led, short-term programs to virtually every continent so that the global footprint of the University continues to expand, and student ambassadors from Illinois continue to seek international integration into their majors and in their career pathways.

At the University of Illinois at Chicago, nearly half of all students who studied abroad last academic year were from underrepresented minorities, and more than two of every five were in the first generation of their family to attend college. UIC is ensuring access to study abroad experiences for students who have had historically low rates of participation in study abroad, including recent immigrants, students with disabilities, those who identify as LGBTQ, students from low income backgrounds and even students who study in particular fields, such as the sciences, IT, engineering, mathematics, health professions or other technical areas. In addition to short-term faculty led programs, UIC Study Abroad works with over 30 domestic and international partners to deliver more than 200 program opportunities.

The University of Illinois at Springfield offers reciprocal exchange opportunities for semester or year-long study with exchange partners in Central America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. In addition, UIS is a member of the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP), a consortium of universities from around the world. Through ISEP, UIS students can apply to study at partner universities from 55 countries. In 2016, UIS will offer short-term programs in Japan, Thailand, Taiwan, and The Gambia and through partner universities in Ireland, the Netherlands, and China.

Over the past decade, foreign regulation of study abroad programs has increased, with new regulations and greater enforcement of existing requirements for registration and program approvals by the host country. These requirements can be extensive and nuanced. Some host countries, for example, require universities to submit proof of their authority to establish programs in the foreign location, together with copies

of laws, policies, and other information about the university's governance structure. In some cases, universities operating educational programs in foreign countries are subject to local taxes on their program income.

To facilitate the University's ability to respond in timely fashion to these registration and compliance requirements, the President with the concurrence of the Vice President for Academic Affairs recommends that:

- The Board delegate to the President the authority to register and to perform such other acts required by the host government to operate study abroad programs that are consistent with, and in furtherance of, the University and the respective campuses' educational missions;
- The Vice President/Chief Financial Officer and Comptroller be authorized to make, execute, and deliver all instruments and documents on behalf of the Board necessary to establish and operate such international student programs and that the Secretary of the Board be authorized to execute a formal power of attorney if the Vice President/CFO and Comptroller is required to evidence this authority granted by the Board; and,
- The President and the Vice President/CFO and Comptroller each be permitted to delegate these authorities to responsible University officials in conformity with the intents and purposes of this resolution.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure* and Board of Trustee policies and directives.