

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

REQUEST TO OFFER STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to offer study abroad programs.

Executive Summary: The University of Iowa proposes to offer undergraduate and graduate study abroad programs through the Colleges of Business and Liberal Arts and Sciences. The University is required to obtain approval from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools to offer five or more courses at an international site. This request has been reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This report addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan objectives (1.0) "to ensure high-quality educational opportunities for students" and (1.1) "to offer high-quality programs through ongoing program improvement for undergraduate, graduate, professional, and non-degree students and special school students."

Background:

- ◆ **Consortium of Universities for International Studies.** The Consortium of Universities for International Studies (CUIS) is a non-profit organization created in 1985 with a commitment to international education. Initially, Clemson University was the degree-granting institution for the Consortium. In 1999, the University of Kansas became the credit- and degree-granting university for the Consortium. In 2008, the University of Iowa became the credit- and degree-granting institution for CUIS programs.
- ◆ **Programs offered.**
 - ***Study abroad programs.*** Undergraduate courses are offered in business, journalism, communication studies, and Italian during the fall and spring semesters. Undergraduate courses in business, communication studies, Italian, and music are offered in the summer. MBA courses are offered in the summer. Students participating in these programs earn University of Iowa credits that will count toward completion of their individual degree requirements at their home institutions.
 - ***MBA degree program.*** The Tippie School of Management will offer the MBA program in Italy; this will be an extension of the MBA program offered in Hong Kong. Students completing the program will earn a University of Iowa MBA degree and follow a curriculum consistent with the MBA-PM program. This one-year, intensive program offers a focus on leadership development and applied learning as well as international business.
 - ***Executive/non-credit programs.*** University of Iowa faculty will have opportunities to assist in providing and developing executive education and non-credit programming. Students will obtain additional education that is directly related to success in their business careers.

- ◇ CUIS goals.
 - Develop, promote, and manage international learning experiences that most benefit society.
 - Orchestrate personal and professional growth through the development of self-awareness and self-discovery that naturally occurs in the process of international learning experiences.
 - Integrate and implement theories and practices based on science as applied to leadership and leadership development.
 - Contribute to the success of faculty and students in learning, behavior, and performance in all aspects of work life.

- ◇ Relationship to existing programs. The CUIS study abroad programs will offer a new opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to gain meaningful international experience without jeopardizing progress toward their degree objectives. These programs will enrich the study abroad options at the University. CUIS programs will provide increased international experiences and development of leadership abilities. The University anticipates that full-time MBA students will also have the opportunity to select CUIS programs as a travel option for their required international experience to study business and culture in Europe. The University does not expect to add new programs as a result of the CUIS study abroad programs.

- ◇ Relationship to other colleges and universities. The study abroad programs are offered by a consortium of universities headquartered at the University of Iowa. Students at other colleges and universities may participate in these programs and enroll as non-degree students during the term they are abroad. Their credits will transfer to their home institution at the conclusion of the program.

- ◇ Duplication. The Consortium of Universities for International Studies requires only one credit- and degree-granting institution. Therefore, no other Iowa public or private institution will be able to offer the same programs.

- ◇ Demand for programs. The study abroad programs attracted almost 550 students from 42 institutions during the 2008-09 academic year. The MBA program is designed to remain relatively small with a maximum capacity of 45 students.

- ◇ Delivery site. All programs will be offered at the existing facilities of the Consortium Institute of Management and Business Analysis in Paderno del Grappa in Asolo, Italy.

- ◇ Required resources. The personnel, facilities, and equipment needed to operate the program in Italy are in place and functioning well. The College of Business has staff to manage and operate the programs for the University. Faculty members are drawn from the University as well as institutions across the United States. The CUIS programs are not expected to create demand for additional resources at the University of Iowa.

- ◇ Cost. The University anticipates that the cost to operate the study abroad programs will be approximately \$1.3 million/year. The revenue sources will include study abroad program charges (~\$1.1 million) and MBA tuition (~\$400,000).
- ◇ Anticipated enrollment. The University of Iowa anticipates that there will be 550 undergraduate students during Year 1, increasing to 700 undergraduate students by Year 7. The projected enrollment for the MBA program is 32 students during Year 1, increasing to 45 students during Year 7.
- ◇ Accreditation. The business programs were included in the recent reaccreditation review of the College of Business by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business in Fall 2009 and a report will be forthcoming. The University has submitted a request to include the programs in the Higher Learning Commission accreditation of the University of Iowa.
- ◇ Link to Strategic Plan. The proposed request addresses SUI's goals to "create a University experience that enriches the lives of undergraduates and helps them to become well-informed individuals, lifelong learners, engaged citizens, and productive employees and employers" and "cultivate excellent graduate and professional programs and advance the research and scholarly enterprise."