



Study Abroad

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

SUBJECT: UW Study Abroad Solidarity Statement Follow Up
DATE: December 2020

We at UW Study Abroad put forth this message in follow-up to the [statement of solidarity](#) we made in June 2020. We recognize that our [Commitment to Diversity](#) statement must be demonstrated through meaningful action.

In this follow-up, we share a set of our recent, continuing, and planned initiatives (below). We aim to hold ourselves accountable to what we have pledged by sharing our work with our community.

We continue to stand by and with our students and colleagues of color as we work strategically to identify, address, and remove barriers that may prevent participation and to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for all Badgers. We remain optimistic about the future of study abroad and domestic study away, to build bridges of understanding between cultures and among people.

Recent

***NEW* UW Study Abroad Virtual Programs**

UW Study Abroad has developed a variety of [virtual programs](#) that allow students to internationalize their education, without stepping onto an airplane. Going forward, these program options can provide unique advantages to students in terms of accessibility, flexibility and affordability.

***NEW* UW Global Gateway Washington D.C. Program (Summer 2021)**

The [UW Global Gateway Initiative](#) is an ongoing set of programs and fellowships designed to connect students with demonstrated financial need to global education experiences. This new summer program will be focused on [Race and Politics in the United States](#).

UW Study Abroad Pell Eligible Resources

UW Study Abroad staff assembled a set of resources for students who are [Pell Eligible](#) (published Summer 2020). The goal is to provide our known resources for Pell eligible students in a consolidated and easily accessible location.

UW Study Abroad Student Identity Resources Video

UW Study Abroad created a video to introduce and describe [student identity resources](#) (published Summer 2020). These resources are designed to support students in navigating their study abroad or study away program selection while reflecting on their identities.

UW Study Abroad New Inclusive Language Guidance for Staff Bios

UW Study Abroad recently created new guidance for [staff bios](#) to use inclusive language (implemented Summer 2020). More of our staff now share some of their identities and unique facts in their staff bios that might resonate with more students: being first generation, first time travel through study abroad, etc.

Staff Involvement at the National Level

Diversity Abroad Task Force on LGBTQI+ Students

Study Abroad Advisor, Andy Quackenbush has been a member of a [Diversity Abroad](#) Task Force for LGBTQI+ Students. Diversity Abroad is a membership organization in the field of international education, with a mission to support access and inclusion for students from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds. Andy co-authored an article for Diversity Abroad (Published October 2020): [LGBTQIA+ Students in Crisis: Recognizing Assets and Shifting Away from Deficit Models](#). Andy has also co-authored a study abroad advising manual focusing on LGBTQI+ students, which is accessible to Diversity Abroad members.

NAFSA Contemporary Learning Lab: Let's Talk About Race in International Education

Associate Director for Advising, Susan Lochner Atkinson, is the Chair and Co-Trainer of a Learning Lab for [NAFSA: Association of International Educators](#). In this active learning opportunity, participants collaborate with others to navigate honest conversations with education abroad and international students around race and ethnicity. Participants also have the opportunity to "unpack" their own racial and ethnic identities in U.S. and international contexts.

Continuing

UW Study Abroad Access, Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Working Group

UW Study Abroad continues to have a [strategic](#) working group of staff devoted to the mission of increasing access, diversity and inclusion in all facets of our work, services and program offerings. While this work is ongoing and involves all of our staff, the strategic working group, in particular, helps to structure our efforts, monitor progress, and pursue opportunities. We find this working group invaluable as a place to examine how our own office contributes to systemic barriers to study abroad access and how best to break these barriers down.

UW Study Abroad Pre-Departure Loan Program

The [UW Study Abroad Pre-Departure Loan](#) (launched in 2019) helps students who do not have ready access to funds to cover their program acceptance deposit and flight booking costs. The UW Study Abroad Pre-Departure Loan will cover these costs until the study abroad or study away program fee is billed to the student's financial account. This allows the student's financial

aid to apply towards these costs when it is disbursed. No interest or loan fees are charged to participating students.

UW Study Abroad Passport Photo Service

UW Study Abroad offers [free passport size photos](#) to currently enrolled UW-Madison students, faculty, and staff. You do not need to be studying abroad to take advantage of this service (launched in 2019). Through this initiative, our staff works to connect with students early, particularly first-time travelers, and support their interest in study abroad. [This service is temporarily suspended while UW Study Abroad services are provided virtually.]

Planned

We will share updates on these efforts in future messages:

- Increase Our Resources on Race/Ethnicity Abroad for All Students
- Highlight Scholarships for Black, Indigenous, and Students of Color
- Create and Incorporate Identity Training and Resources for UW Study Abroad Program Leaders

