



Dear Colleagues at the Institute of International Education,

Generation Study Abroad is an exciting and welcomed initiative by the University System of Georgia (USG). The USG International Education office pledges our commitment to Generation Study Abroad and to contributing towards doubling the number of U.S. students studying abroad by 2020, and beyond.

The University System of Georgia is home to 26 institutions, comprising a range of Research, Comprehensive and State Universities as well as State Colleges. The USG sponsors a variety of councils and committees that support collaboration and coordination in international education. The USG encourages institutions to work together to accomplish goals and develop programs that may be difficult for an individual college or university to achieve or sustain independently. We are also partnered with IIE and home to CASSIE (Consortium for Analysis of Student Success through International Education), which examines the impact of study abroad on a range of student success indicators.

The USG is committed to growing capacity within study abroad at each of our institutions. This can be evidenced by the 2013 update to the USG's Strategic Plan which states: "Increase the number of students participating in study abroad from 7,245 in the 2013/2014 academic year to 8,500 for the 2018/2019 academic year" The latest Open Doors data indicate that we are well on our way to this goal with 8,173 students studying abroad in 2015/2016.

In addition to the System Council on International Education and its subcommittees (Study Abroad Committee and Committee for International Students and Scholars) we sponsor several World Regional Councils – Africa Council, Americas Council, Asia Council, European Council and Middle East Council. The European Council and the Asia Council are host to several Study Abroad programs, enriching our institutions and providing an attainable option for many of our students to study abroad. These Councils send several hundred students abroad every summer. The goals of these council study abroad programs mirror our system-wide commitment to international education: 1) Increase the number of USG students participating in study abroad; 2) Make study abroad programming more cost effective and efficient; and 3) Enhance internationalization of students, faculty and curricula.

Further, our approach and how it aligns with the goals of Generational Study Abroad can be outlined as follows:

Launch a new study abroad initiative or scholarship: The USG International Education office has just initiated a new International Education Grant in 2018. International Education Grants in the amount of \$2,000 are in place to assist individual USG campuses in the development of exchange partners and/or growth of their study abroad programs, supporting both new and existing programs. We initially intended to provide two \$2,000 grants but were able to provide three \$2,000 grants in this inaugural year.

Implement a new budget/fee model to support study abroad: The USG system is undergoing changes to accounting procedures. The USG International Education office pledges to work with relevant stakeholders to create a much more transparent process in which any student money paid, but not spent, will be refunded directly back to the student.

Improve curricular integration: The USG system currently has no systematic way of capturing 'study abroad' within Banner (student record system). The USG International Education office pledges to work with relevant stakeholders to create a 'study abroad' specific attribute so that data can be more readily captured, and subsequently reports more readily created and allow for study abroad advocacy.

Make it possible for more underrepresented students to study abroad: The USG International Education office pledges to work with individual USG institutions to identify and target students receiving Pell grants (and are therefore eligible for Gilman) and veteran students/families. From this launching point, we will aid institutions in coordinating targeted workshops and assistance to encourage eligible students to apply for scholarships.

The Generation Study Abroad logo will be placed on our website and this commitment letter will be circulated amongst the identified Senior International Officers at each of our 26 institutions. Currently, several of our USG institutions have already joined Generation Study Abroad including:

- Dalton State College,
- Georgia College & State University,
- Georgia Institute of Technology,
- Georgia Southwestern State University,
- Georgia State University,
- University of North Georgia, and
- Valdosta State University

The USG International Education office has included Generation Study Abroad within the Recommendations section of our [Report of International Activities 2014 – 2017](#).

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this shared goal.

With best regards,



Tammy Rosner
Director of International Education