

HOW TO MEET THE PRESIDENTIAL STUDY ABROAD CHALLENGE



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
International

THE CHALLENGE

The president has challenged the University of Arizona to triple study abroad participation by 2029. The focus for 2026–27 is academic planning for study abroad.

Colleges, academic units, and academic advisors are asked to advance five deliverables:

- Map at least one study abroad program to every undergraduate major
- Publish a sample study abroad degree plan for every undergraduate major
- Ensure all academic advisors complete Study Abroad Navigators professional development training
- Maintain a dedicated study abroad webpage for every college and department
- Introduce study abroad as part of academic advising and, when a student is interested, create an individualized academic plan showing how study abroad can fit within their remaining path to degree completion

The first four deliverables have a campus-wide completion goal by the end of the 2026–27 academic year. Individualized degree planning is an ongoing advising expectation for students who want to study abroad.

The Study Abroad Office will support implementation, work with campus partners to track completion of the campus-wide deliverables, and present results to the president at the end of the 2026–27 academic year.

1. PROGRAM MAPPING

Goal:

At least one study abroad opportunity mapped to every undergraduate major, so students can identify specific programs that are academically relevant to their degree.

What Qualifies:

A mapped opportunity could include:

- **Global Track**
 - A documented set of pre-approved study abroad courses offered on a study abroad program and aligned with degree requirements

- **Faculty-Led Program**

- A U of A faculty-led program offering coursework that satisfies degree requirements

- **International Internship**

- A credit-bearing international internship that can be incorporated into the major to meet a degree requirement

- **International Research Opportunity**

- A credit-bearing international research experience that can be incorporated into the major to meet a degree requirement

Every major does not need to offer every type of experience. The goal is to ensure that every major has at least one specific study abroad option that can contribute to academic progress.

What to Do:

For each major:

- Review existing mapped programs
 - Determine whether the major already has an academically relevant study abroad option
 - Examples include B.S. Architecture at UA Sydney through a defined Global Track or B.S. Natural Resources through the Conservation Field Studies: Galapagos faculty-led program
- Fill gaps where no mapped option exists
 - Work with the Study Abroad Office to identify an existing program offering credit that can be articulated to the major, or develop a new program designed to satisfy degree requirements

Report Completion:

Submit the link to at least one mapped study abroad program through the Presidential Study Abroad Challenge Major-Level Reporting Form. If multiple programs are mapped to the major, submit each program link.

2. SAMPLE STUDY ABROAD DEGREE PLANS

Goal:

A published sample study abroad degree plan for every undergraduate major that shows when and how study abroad can fit within the overall path to graduation without extending time to degree.

What to Do:

For each major:

- Identify a term in which study abroad is possible and encouraged
- Identify the types of degree requirements students could complete abroad
- Maximize flexibility within the degree plan through course sequencing, substitutions, and other adjustments that create space for study abroad
- Use the plan as a starting point for individualized advising

The sample plan is not tied to one specific study abroad program and is not intended to prescribe one path for every student. It should demonstrate that a viable academic path to study abroad exists. A good example can be found [here](#).

Report Completion:

Submit the link to the published sample study abroad degree plan through the Presidential Study Abroad Challenge Major-Level Reporting Form.

3. STUDY ABROAD NAVIGATORS TRAINING**Goal:**

All academic advisors across the university complete the Study Abroad Navigators professional development training by the end of the 2026–27 academic year.

What to Do:

Ensure all academic advisors complete Study Abroad Navigators training.

Report Completion:

The Study Abroad Office will track Navigators completion and monitor progress toward full participation across the academic advising community.

4. COLLEGE AND DEPARTMENT STUDY ABROAD WEBPAGES**Goal:**

A dedicated study abroad webpage for every college and department that provides students with accurate, academically relevant information about study abroad.

Pages Should Help Students

- Understand why study abroad is relevant to their field
- Find mapped programs relevant to their major
- Access sample study abroad degree plans
- Connect directly to Study Abroad resources and advising

The Study Abroad Office will provide recommended content and templates that colleges and academic units can tailor for their students. These will be made available through the [Study Abroad Marketing Toolkit](#).

What to Do:

- Create or update a dedicated study abroad webpage for each college and department
- On department webpages, include mapped study abroad programs and sample study abroad degree plans
- Link students to the U of A Study Abroad website, relevant study abroad program pages, and the [Connect with Us](#) page for advising and support

Report Completion:

Submit through the Presidential Study Abroad Challenge reporting forms:

- The college-level study abroad webpage through the College-Level Reporting Form
- The department-level study abroad webpage associated with each major through the Major-Level Reporting Form

5. INDIVIDUALIZED STUDY ABROAD DEGREE PLANS**Goal:**

Academic advisors proactively discuss study abroad with students and, when a student is interested, help them develop an individualized academic plan showing how study abroad can fit within their remaining path to degree completion.

What to Do:

As part of academic advising:

- Introduce and discuss study abroad as part of academic planning
- When a student is interested, use the sample study abroad degree plan as a starting point for individualized planning
- Identify a term in which study abroad can fit into a student's academic plan and work with them to discuss their preferred term abroad
- Identify the degree requirements the student could complete abroad
- Create an individualized academic plan showing how study abroad can fit within the student's path to graduation

This moves the student from seeing that study abroad is possible within the major to understanding how it can work within their individual academic plan.

Completion Expectations

In 2026–27, advisors should begin consistently discussing study abroad and creating plans for interested students.

In alignment with the MMAP syllabus, the long-term goal is for 100% of students to discuss study abroad with their advisor by the end of second year at the latest, with interested students incorporating it into their academic plan.

TRACKING AND REPORTING

Campus partners will report completed campus-wide deliverables through two centralized Presidential Study Abroad Challenge reporting forms:

- [College-Level Reporting Form](#) for the college study abroad webpage and Navigators completion tracking
- [Major-Level Reporting Form](#) for mapped programs, sample study abroad degree plans, and department study abroad webpages

Individualized study abroad degree plans are an ongoing advising expectation and are not separately reported or tracked through the challenge forms.

The Study Abroad Office will review submissions, maintain an internal university-wide tracker, and present results to the president at the end of the 2026–27 academic year.