



Study Abroad

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Solidarity Statement and Action Plan Biannual Update to Campus and Public 2021 June Implementation

We at UW Study Abroad put forth this message to share our recent, continuing, and planned efforts to fulfill our [Statement of Solidarity](#) and [Commitment to Diversity](#).

In this follow-up, we take the opportunity to express our solidarity with members of the Asian, Pacific Islander and Desi American (APIA) communities. While targeting against these communities in our country is not new, there has been a rise in hate during the COVID-19 pandemic, ([stopaapihate.org](#)). We are grateful for [support resources](#), and encourage bystander intervention training. Members of our staff have done so and would recommend free trainings with [Hollaback!](#).

We remain optimistic about the future of study abroad, international internships, and domestic study away programming to build bridges of understanding between cultures and among people.

Recent

Highlight Scholarships for Black, Indigenous, and Students of Color [From [2020 December](#) Planned Actions]

We created a new [Identity-Based Scholarships](#) resource and reviewed new and existing scholarship opportunities to identify those that offer funding opportunities for specific student groups (e.g. Actively Serving, Student Veteran, Military-affiliated Students; First Generation College Students; LGBTQ+ Students; Racial and/or Ethnic Minority Students; Students with Disabilities). We updated scholarship descriptions on our [scholarship chart](#) to include language that indicates whether they offer identity-based scholarships to assist students in their scholarship search.

Increase Our Resources on Race/Ethnicity Abroad for All Students [From [2020 December](#) Planned Actions]

We revised our [Race and Ethnicity Abroad](#) identity page, and added subpages for [Asian](#), [Black](#), [Indigenous](#), [Latinx](#), [Middle East/North African](#), and [White](#) students. The content on each subpage is intentionally varied, with an effort to acknowledge and address unique experiences and considerations for members of each community. Identities are intersectional, and students may find theirs matched to more than one page. We invite students to ask questions and connect with us on these topics. We also invite the campus community to share ideas and feedback with us, as we aim to regularly review and expand resources.

International Academic Programs

Create Inclusion Resources for UW Study Abroad Program Leaders

[From [2020 December](#) Planned Actions]

We developed new resources for Program Leaders, including guides with best practices for how to create inclusive syllabi, pre-departure orientations, and on-site experiences; a reference guide of university resources and campus units devoted to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion and supporting historically underrepresented populations; and a library of articles, books, and other materials focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion. These resources will be provided to all current and new Program Leaders.

Add Returned Student Quotes to [Identity Pages](#) (New)

We ask students to share their experiences on how various parts of their identity impacted them while they were abroad in their program evaluations. We pulled quotes from the past five years (from evaluations where students gave permission for their feedback to be used publicly) and added these to our [identity pages](#). We recognize that one student's experience is their own, and one does not reflect all, but their unique insights can provide incredible support for students who similarly identify, including: [Military, Veteran, and GI Bill® Students](#); [Adult Students](#); [First Generation Students](#); [Heritage Seekers](#); [LGBTQ+ Students](#); [Religious Diversity](#); [Students with Disabilities](#); and [Gender Abroad](#).

Create an identity page for [DACA/Undocumented](#) students (New)

Every UW-Madison student deserves access to experiential education, and this page is designed to provide information and resources that include various logistical, financial, and legal considerations for DACA and undocumented students.

Expand Resources for [Religious Diversity Abroad](#) (New)

We added to our resources section to include the resources for the following: General, Agnostic/Atheist/Humanist, Bahá'í, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism.

Continuing

UW Study Abroad Virtual Programs

We offer a variety of [virtual programs](#) that provide unique advantages to students in terms of accessibility, flexibility and affordability. Our website contains [student testimonials](#) on the impact of virtual programs. More than 100 students are participating in virtual programs and internships this summer.

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 focuses on [Race and Politics in the United States](#). We are excited to be running this program on-location in Washington D.C. with an inaugural cohort of 13 students.

Planned

We will share updates on these efforts in future messages:

- UW Study Abroad Passport Photo Service Re-Launch: We began offering [free passport size photos](#) to currently enrolled UW-Madison students, faculty, and staff in 2019. This service was suspended while our office space was closed. Stay tuned for information on the re-launch.
- Improve guidance and resources for students about competitive programs and how to make a strong application.