



TO: Council on Academic Affairs and Council on Graduate Studies

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RE: Virtual Study Abroad Options

DATE: November 9, 2021

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## **Course Approval Process for Virtual Study Abroad Options**

### **Rationale:**

After a successful launch of EIU's first Virtual Study course, this proposal addresses the course approval process for "Virtual Study Abroad Programs." All Study Abroad courses are approved through faculty members on the International Education Council due to their backgrounds and unique experiences in the area of study abroad. On a trial basis, in the spring semester 2021, the Council on Academic Affairs and the Council on Graduate Studies approved that the International Education Council would serve as the curriculum oversight governance body for virtual study abroad courses for the summer and fall 2021 semesters. Given the success of the virtual study broad course offered in summer 2021, and IEC faculty members' ongoing expertise in the area of study abroad, we seek to codify that IEC will serve as the curriculum governance body for any future virtual study abroad courses.

Virtual study abroad options meet EIU's mission; a Virtual Study Abroad course is affordable and likewise is accessible to a broad range of students. The course may also generate heightened interest from those wary of study abroad, and thus can potentially serve later as a gateway to traditional study abroad enrollment.

### **Basic Course Requirements for Virtual Study Abroad:**

All Virtual/Remote Study Abroad Courses will have the following elements:

- The substance of the course is foreign/international in scope and breadth
- Have experiential components through virtual means
- Entail some synchronous interaction with individuals at the international study site, which may be external faculty members, colleagues at partner institutions, host families, international experts, inter alia.
- 1 to 3 credit hour limitation
- These courses would not count toward the university Senior Seminar requirement.

- Separate course fees may be utilized to cover possible expenses with international experiences upon gaining appropriate approval.

### **Voting Agenda Item: Course Approval Process**

Though the course will be delivered remotely, we propose to utilize the exceptions language in IGP 46.1 regarding course approval procedures. We are requesting that CAA and CGS allow the International Education Council (IEC) to provide oversight and course approval procedures for all future Virtual Study Abroad course proposals, just as IEC does with all traditional Study Abroad course approval requests. Given that the course content is all international and experiential to the best extent possible through virtual means, we believe that the curriculum oversight role should remain with IEC, though understand the need to confirm an exception with these governance bodies as noted in IGP 46.1.

Approved by International Education Council on 11/5/2021