



GLOBAL EDUCATION END OF SEMESTER REPORT

SPRING 2021



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION

As the pandemic persisted throughout and beyond spring semester 2021, the Global Education team remained productive and responsive to ways to continue to provide international experiences to our stakeholders. While travel for spring semester 2021 and the majority of summer 2021 was ultimately canceled, the team continued to contribute to ongoing projects and respond to new and upcoming initiatives, including the continuation of Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)/ virtual initiatives into the academic year 2021-2022 discussing and responding to the impact of COVID-19 on this and future terms.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

- Buckeye Bridge and Buckeye Abroadcasts
- Program Manager updates
- Information Sessions
- Professional development
- Partnerships
- Academic Advisor resources
- Advising
- Return to onsite programming
- Virtual programs
- Getting Started Sessions
- Looking forward

BUCKEYE BRIDGE & BUCKEYE ABROADCASTS

In addition to the ongoing series of Buckeye Bridge activities, Global Education partnered with the India Gateway and Brazil Gateway to host lecture series events on topics such as artificial intelligence, sustainability and climate change. Over the course of six lectures, over 170 students, faculty and industry leaders engaged with Ohio State from around the world. Including the numbers from the fall Career Conversations, these webinars reached roughly 240 individuals.

Additional Buckeye Bridge events included a State Department Panel, a Peace Corps event, and further collaboration with the Brazil Gateway for an episode of Culinary Passport focusing on the Brazilian dessert brigadeiro.

Continuing the success of our Buckeyes Abroadcasts series, a number of additional episodes were released including two on virtual programs for summer 2021 and two that highlighted students participating in internships, garnering over 200 collective listens from across the United States and around the world.

Listen to Buckeyes Abroadcasts on [Soundcloud](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#).

PROGRAM MANAGER UPDATES

- Transitioned to online resident director trainings (primarily business operations, but program managers did review and offer input)
- Discussed fees to find a balance of charging for services without overcharging
- Modified internal documents on how to plan programming during a pandemic
- Secured services and finalized budgets for programs (programs did not travel, substantial effort was spent in planning activities)
 - Spring 2021 - six programs (12 were canceled)
 - Summer 2021 - 11 programs (34 were canceled)
- Created educational piece for college leadership and SFOs about the finances for global education

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Global Education continued to provide information sessions for programs addressing ways to participate, whether that be in person or virtual, and acknowledging that the atmosphere was and continues to be very fluid. While some of these programs did not run, information sessions allow us to continue connecting with students and establishing those relationships with an eye towards long-term planning.

INFORMATION SESSIONS:

- Global education virtual programs
- ISA Global remote internships
- Student Activist Global Seminar: Racial Justice in South Africa and the U.S.
- Sustainability and Social Justice in Ecuador
- Canadian Parliament
- DIS:
 - Buckeye Bridge: The Climate Impact of our Food
 - General information session
 - Engineering specific information sessions

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Aaron Klein, global education manager in the College of Engineering, and Keira Williams, program manager in the Office of Global Business, co-presented at the Tri-state NAFSA meeting. Along with the University of Dayton, Transylvania University and the Study Abroad Foundation, they showcased the three COIL programs developed and run by the College of Engineering and the Fisher College of Business during spring semester 2021 relaying what considerations were important when designing the programs, how they recruited, as well as how they supplemented academic concepts with enriching cultural programming. They concluded that virtual programming can live in traditional education abroad, but it also is a mechanism to develop on-campus internationalization; quality, immersive cultural programming can be free/affordable; and while recruitment and messaging can be challenging, student satisfaction and engagement remained high. Forty-one students participated in these three programs.

PARTNERSHIPS

Eleven Student Exchange Agreements have been signed since the beginning of the year for the Moritz College of Law, Fisher College of Business and the College of Arts and Sciences. There is nearly an equal number of pending agreements that will be forthcoming.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR RESOURCES

Given feedback and collaboration with our academic advisor peers, a new webpage of [academic advisor resources](#) has been developed to further support the campus community in discussing global education opportunities with their students.

ADVISING

Beginning in autumn semester 2021, Global Education transitioned to scheduling appointments through the university's OnCourse system. This system is integrated into many aspects of the university, including academic advising, enabling students to schedule Global Education appointments the same way they would schedule academic advising. This integration also syncs with Outlook calendars, allows staff to differentiate between general appointments and program-specific appointments, and allows for differentiation between in-person appointments and phone/remote appointments.

RETURN TO ONSITE PROGRAMMING

Six students traveled on the ISA Seoul program for Summer 2021, and 17 students are scheduled to go abroad this autumn, either to South Korea or to the United Kingdom. To assist with program viability review, Global Education researched each program with a thorough eye for emergency response protocols, academic continuity plans and financial resilience assurance and contributed this data to International Risk Management's overall program assessment.

Once these programs were reviewed and approved for travel, specialists worked to manage student expectations and to prepare them for their experience with multiple pre-departure meetings. Each cohort of students was invited to attend an "Informed COVID-19 Traveler" webinar prior to admission. This meeting was created to help students to think through how studying abroad during an ongoing pandemic would be different from what they might expect. This meeting paid particular attention to financial timelines and withdrawal/cancellation policies in addition to health and safety features such as immigration requirements, required quarantine, and local public health expectations.

Based on this information, students could then decide whether to move forward with their plans to travel. All students remained committed to traveling and attended orientations to prepare them for both the usual features (credit evaluation, how to use financial aid, documents to submit) as well as the "new normal" features (getting COVID-19 tests prior to departure, packing personal protective equipment and knowing what to expect upon arrival).

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

With the exception of ISA Seoul, most travel was disrupted for summer term 2021. However, Global Education supported student participation in a variety of virtual programming offerings including Beyond Harems and Belly Dancers: Turkish Culture led by an Ohio State faculty member and some ISA Global Remote Internships. This is in addition to successful ventures into the virtual realm by the College of Engineering and Fisher College of Business.

The College of Education and Human Ecology's Office of Equity, Diversity, and Global Engagement (EDGE) and the SIT Study Abroad in South Africa presented a five-day virtual event, "Student Activism Global Seminar: Racial Justice in South Africa and the U.S." The event brought South African and U.S. scholars in the fields of Black Consciousness, de-colonization, political science, feminism, social justice and higher education to engage with Ohio State undergraduate student participants for over five hours each day.

Additionally, Global Online Learning Initiatives have provided opportunities for continued cross-OIA collaborations including the formation of a working group and self-study groups, developing OIA's virtual services. OIA created a proposal abstract for these faculty-led and third-party providers, developed course development grants and continue to navigate the logistics of onboarding these opportunities with the university through securing permissions to use virtual placeholder courses, adding special attributes, as necessary, adding "virtual" as a parameter in the Terra Dotta application management system, for example.

GETTING STARTED SESSIONS

The Global Education team continued to offer virtual Getting Started sessions twice a week throughout the spring semester. Attendance at these events during spring semester is always less than that of fall attendance, but we still had over 450 students register and close to 400 students attend a Getting Started session over the course of the spring semester. Over the course of the academic year, we had upwards of 1,500 students participate in a Getting Started session. For autumn semester 2021, we are hosting one virtual session along with one in-person session each week.

LOOKING FORWARD

For autumn semester 2021, we will have students abroad in South Korea and the United Kingdom. We are encouraged that, due to their longer duration, students are able to participate while still meeting various COVID-19 protocols such as quarantining upon entry to the country. Short-term programming remains challenging for such considerations, and we have unfortunately cancelled all programs traveling over winter break. With upcoming application deadlines for spring semester 2021 and beyond, we are hopeful to support students in their experiences abroad and will continue to explore and offer alternative programming to continue to allow students to internationalize their time as Buckeyes.