

University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, university-based organization providing authentic, affordable study abroad programs at more than 50 locations in 27 countries

Since 1982, we have provided students with life-changing opportunities to live and learn in countries all around the globe. We strive to provide experiences in which students grow into engaged citizens of the world, not only in the classroom, but also through field trips, integrated living, language partners, sports, internships, and volunteer and service-learning opportunities.

It is, and always has been, important for us to contribute to the internationalization of universities in the U.S. and abroad. Students from any university are welcome to apply and participate on USAC programs. For more than 37 years, students from more than 700 universities around the world have studied with USAC.

Mission

USAC's mission is to provide students with the opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to succeed in a global society. We strive to provide an authentic context in which students may grow into engaged citizens of the world, not only in the classroom but also through field trips, integrated living, academic experiences, sports, internships, and volunteer and service learning opportunities.

GOALS

- Create affordable opportunities for learning
- Offer academically rigorous courses aligned with US standards
- · Encourage cross-cultural learning
- · Provide a new perspective of another part of the world
- Facilitate the acquisition of foreign languages

Organizational Overview

THE CONSORTIUM

USAC is a consortium of universities who provide oversight, support, and strategic planning to USAC and its programs (see list below). The management of the consortium is overseen by a Board of Directors, comprising representatives from our consortium universities.

Boise State University*
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
California State University, Chico
California State University, Dominguez Hills
California State University, Fresno
California State University, Stanislaus
Clemson University
Fort Lewis College
Humboldt State University
Hunter College
Loyola University Chicago
Michigan Technological University
Northern Arizona University

Ohio Northern University Portland State University

University of Arkansas

University of Cincinnati

University of Florida

University of Houston

University of Idaho*

University of Iowa*

University of Maine

University of Maryland

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

University of Mount Union

University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

University of Nevada, Reno*

University of South Carolina

University of the Pacific

University of Toledo*

University of Tulsa

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Wright State University*

Xavier University

*Indicates permanent Board members, not including three additional rotating board members.

The USAC Difference

Organizational Overview Continued



PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Alvssa Nota, Ph.D. was named President/CEO of University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC) in June 2017. She joined USAC in

2000 as the Resident Director (RD) of the Torino program. She later transitioned into a Regional RD position after creating and launching three additional programs in Italy: Viterbo, Reggio Emilia, and Verona. Additionally, she helped launch the program in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

During her 20+ years in international education, Alyssa has gained extensive experience with strategic planning, curriculum design, academic integrity, finances, staffing, and student behavioral and health issues. She holds a doctorate in Education/Curriculum and Instruction with highest distinction from Boston College.

CENTRAL OFFICE

The USAC Central Office is located at the University of Nevada, Reno. The office is composed of Student Information, University Relations, Enrollment, and Accounting departments, including the scholarship and alumni team and other staff who provide personalized pre-departure advising and support to students throughout their study abroad experience.

RESIDENT DIRECTORS AND OVERSEAS STAFF

Specialty programs feature support from USAC Resident Directors, staff, and faculty, as well as staff and faculty from the host universities. Resident Directors are continually working to improve programs, add great courses, and develop opportunities for students to engage with the host culture.

AFFORDABILITY

We believe study abroad is an integral, necessary part of today's education, not just a luxury available only to the privileged few. As such, one of our core commitments is to make study abroad feasible for as many students as possible. This principle guides where we choose to place our programs, pricing, scholarships, and the services we offer.

IMMERSIVE LOCATIONS & EXPERIENCES

We strategically select locations where students will have maximum opportunities to engage with local residents and the community. Students are more likely to immerse in the local culture, meet locals, and improve their language skills if they are not studying in cities inundated with other U.S. students or tourists. Students have the opportunity to select courses not available at home, and learn outside the classroom with field trips, field studies, internships, and service learning.

QUALITY AND LONGEVITY

USAC was founded in 1982 and is known for high-quality, academically rigorous programs. On average, USAC Resident Directors have worked with USAC for more than 11 years and all professors who teach with us must have a master's degree or higher. Building meaningful relationships is at the core of our mission, and we work diligently to meet or exceed the needs of our partners in the U.S. and abroad.



The USAC Central Office is on the University of Nevada, Reno campus. Our new building opened in 2017.

Program Models

SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

USAC offers 30 Specialty Program locations in 17 countries. Our Specialty programs are wholly designed and managed by USAC. They offer the option of intensive language study combined with an assortment of courses in a wide variety of disciplines, taught in English. Most programs offer a concentration of courses in a specific discipline that are relevant to the program location. Both local faculty and visiting professors from USAC consortium universities teach on Specialty Programs.

Students earn U.S. credits and attend classes with other USAC students from other U.S. universities. In many program sites, local and international students sit in on USAC classes. Courses adhere to U.S. standards, and transcripts are issued by a USAC consortium university upon completion of the program.

Specialty Programs are located on the campus of a collaborating host university. These programs have a full-time Resident Director who hires staff and local faculty, arranges housing and excursions, organizes internships and field studies, and ensures the general well-being of USAC students.

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

USAC offers 23 Partnership Program locations in 12 countries. Partnership Programs provide students with the opportunity to directly enroll at predominantly English-speaking foreign universities where they generally have access to the full curriculum of coursework. As a regularly enrolled student of the host university, students assume more responsibility and initiative for their academic and social life.

USAC serves as the intermediary between the student and our partner university abroad to assist in the application and registration process, the securement of housing, visas, health insurance, orientation, etc. In most cases, there is no specific USAC-only staff onsite. The international office of the university takes the lead in supporting and assisting USAC students along with other international students on campus. Programs below with an asterisk also have part-time USAC Resident Directors who organize field trips, get-togethers, or other events to enhance the program experience.

Students who participate on Partnership Programs receive a transcript directly from the foreign institution. This is a foreign transcript with non-U.S. credits. At the end of the program, USAC delivers the host university transcript to the student's home university along with recommendations for converting the overseas credits and grades to U.S. equivalencies; however, ultimately it is the responsibility of the student and their home university to transfer the credit.

SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

Brazil

FLORIANÓPOLIS

Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina

Chile

SANTIAGO

Universidad Andrés Bello

China

CHENGDU Southwest Minzu University SHANGHAI Shanghai University

Costa Rica

HEREDIA

Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica PUNTARENAS USAC Puntarenas Center SAN RAMÓN Sede de Occidente

Cuba

LA HABANA

Instituto de Filosofia

Czech Republic

PRAGUE

Charles University

England

LONDON (SUMMER) Imperial College

France

PAU
University of Pau

LYON

Université Catholique de Lyon

Germany

LÜNEBURG

Leuphana University

Ghana

ACCRA

University of Ghana at Legon

India

BENGALURU

Christ (University)

Ireland

CORK (SUMMER)
University College Cork

GALWAY

National University of Ireland

Italy

REGGIO EMILIA

University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

TORINO

University of Torino

VERONA

IUSVE University

VITERBO

Università degli Studi della Tuscia

Poland

KRAKÓW

Cracow University of Economics

Spain

ALICANTE

University of Alicante

BILBAO/GETXO
University of the Basque Country

MADRID

Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

SAN SEBASTIÁN

Universidad del País Vasco

VALENCIA

La Universidad Politècnica de València

Thailand

CHIANG MAI Chiang Mai University KHON KAEN

Khon Kaen University

Uruguay

MONTEVIDEO Universidad ORT

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

Australia

GOLD COAST Griffith University MELBOURNE Deakin University

England

BRIGHTON
University of Brighton
BRISTOL*

University of Bristol LONDON*

London Metropolitan University READING* University of Reading

Ireland CORK*

CORK* University College Cork

Israel HAIFA

University of Haifa

Japan

HIROSHIMA Hiroshima University NAGASAKI

Nagasaki University of Foreign Studies NISHINOMIYA (OSAKA/KOBE) Kwansei Gakuin University

Korea

GWANGJU
Chonnam National University
SEOUL - YONSEI
Yonsei University
SEOUL - KOOKMIN
Kookmin University

The Netherlands

MAASTRICHT
Maastricht University
THE HAGUE
The Hague University of Applied
Sciences

New Zealand

AUCKLAND/PALMERSTON NORTH/WELLINGTON Massey University HAWKE'S BAY/WELLINGTON Massey University

Norway

OSLO* Check usac.edu

Scotland

ST ANDREWS

University of St Andrews STIRLING

University of Stirling

South Africa STELLENBOSCH

Stellenbosch University

Sweden

VÄXJÖ/KALMAR Linnaeus University

Accreditation

The University Studies Abroad Consortium Specialty programs meet or exceed accrediting agencies' standards set by the Commission on Colleges of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education. USAC is reviewed by this agency as part of its review of the University of Nevada, Reno and other consortium universities. Our partner universities abroad are accredited by the respective agencies in those countries.

Memberships and Affiliations

USAC is a member of several international education associations in the U.S. and abroad that evaluate and set the standard for academic programs. USAC supports the efforts of these and other professional organizations to establish standards and advance the field of international education.

- NAFSA Global Partner
- FORUM Member
- Diversity Abroad Member
- Generation Study Abroad Commitment Partner
- OSAC Constituent
- Association of American College and University Programs in Italy (AACUPI)
- Association of American Study Abroad Programmes/United Kingdom (AASAP/UK)
- · Asociación de Programas Internacionales en Chile (APICH)
- Asociation des Programmes Universitaires Américains en France (APUAF)
- Asociación de Programas Universitarios Norteamericanos en España (APUNE)
- · Association of Study Abroad Providers in Ireland (ASAPI)
- Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA)

Recent Awards and Recognition

Top Study Abroad Provider, 2017 and 2018 GOABROAD.COM

This annual award is based on a combination of the total number of program reviews collected and overall ratings given by students for 2017 and 2018.



Best Study Abroad Provider of 2018

GOOVERSEAS.COM Community Choice Awards: Study Abroad

This award is based on program reviews submitted by students in 2018.



About USAC







Program Terms









365

Yearlong

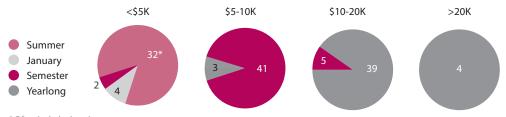
Students and University Partners





Universities Sending Students All-time

Program Affordability



* Often includes housing

What We Offer



Low-Cost Programs & Scholarships



Volunteering



Academically **Rigorous Courses**



Cultural Immersion



Language Learning



Homestays



Small Class Sizes



Internships

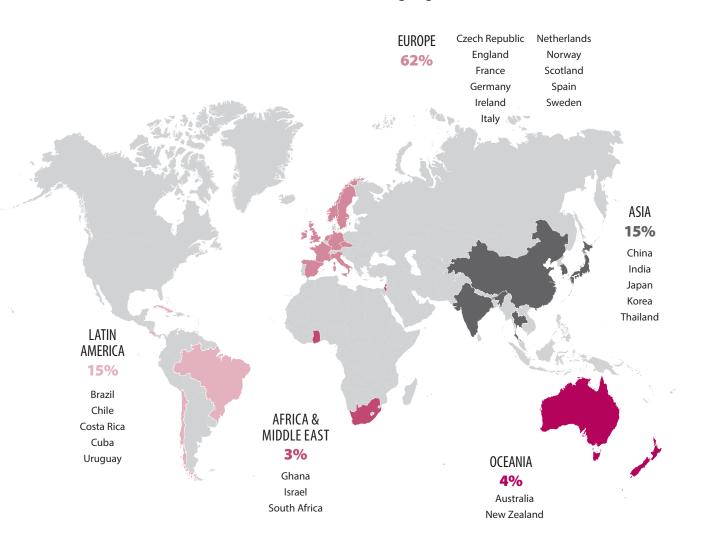


Field Trips & Tours



Alumni Support

Where are students going?





What are students studying?

Business Management 1,120 (22%)	915 (18%)	Foreign Language & International Studies 740 (14%)	Health Professions 490 (9%)
Physical/Life Sciences 386 (7%)	Comm & Journalism 342 (7%)	Humanities 250 (5%)	Engineering 195 (4%)
Education 180 (3%)	Fine & Applied Art 146 (3%)	Other 113 (2%)	Math or Computer Sciences 91 (2%)
Legal Studies & Law Enforcement 88 (2%)	Undeclared 76 (1%)	Agriculture 53 (1%)	

Student Support Services

Students receive comprehensive support before, during, and after their study abroad programs.

PRE-DEPARTURE

USAC offers a wide range of services to students before, during, and after their departure, including a dedicated support team.

- Our **Enrollment Specialists** work to ensure that **applications are completed** on time and approval status is reached quickly so that students can start more detailed planning.
- The Health and Safety team works one-on-one with students with disabilities or health concerns to prepare for their experience abroad. Additionally, the team works cross-departmentally to ensure all students have the proper resources and information regarding their health, safety, and security.
- Registration Specialists handle enrollment for USAC Specialty courses and internships, as well as, assist with questions about courses and transcripts.
- Program Advisors prepare students on program-specific pre-departure matters, such as passport and visa guidance, group flight arrangements, and housing recommendations and arrangements. In addition, advisors send periodic updates and host free webinars with information ranging from packing tips to insights on cultural norms in the host country.
- The Scholarships team assists students with USAC and third-party scholarship application processes. Webinars regarding tips and advice are also held to help students with the application process.
- The Finance Department works with students on financial aid deferment, billing, and payment options.
- The University Relations team coordinates the relationship between USAC and the home universities. They help answer questions faculty or staff have about their students' participation on a program.

ON-SITE

Students participating on USAC Specialty Programs have access to 24-hour support from a Resident Director and program staff. Resident Directors run and manage the entire program on-site including academics, hiring, planning, emergency support, and more. Most Resident Directors have a master's degree or higher, and on average have worked with USAC for more than 11 years. They all have extensive experience in study abroad and speak multiple languages. Resident Directors, with the assistance of the program staff, organize mandatory orientation to provide information on health and safety, cultural norms, and program details; secure housing for students; arrange immersion opportunities including internships, service learning, volunteer placements, and local language partners; and organize field trips, optional tours, and cultural activities. In addition to staff support, USAC students have access to on-campus facilities, clubs, and activities.

On Partnership Programs, students are supported by the staff of the host university international programs office, which organizes an orientation and provides general support with course registration, travel tips, and housing recommendations. USAC students have full access to on-campus resources including library privileges, workout facilities, computer labs, and the ability to participate in student clubs and activities. The host university staff may also organize field trips that USAC students have the option to attend. USAC students are directly enrolled in the host university and are considered equivalent to all other international students on campus.

RE-ENTRY AND ALUMNI SUPPORT

All USAC students receive re-entry information about what to expect regarding reverse culture shock. Additionally, the USAC Alumni team provides resources on leveraging study abroad toward meeting future personal, academic, and professional goals. USAC has alumni grants of up to \$500 available to cover the costs for attending a returnee conference or completing a presentation, event, or project that spreads the word about study abroad and the lessons learned. USAC also provides the opportunity for alumni to share their stories and photos on our blog (blog.usac.edu).

Affordability and Pricing Philosophy

As a **nonprofit, university-based organization**, USAC understands the pressures students (and their families) face to finance their education and we are committed to maintaining modest fees for our programs. You will see evidence of this philosophy in a variety of ways.

For starters, our program location choices are based mostly on affordable, manageable places to live and go to school—especially on a student budget. They're also tied to the cost-of-living in the host country and the tuition charged by the host university, meaning that countries where it is more expensive to live will likely have higher program fees and vice-versa. Still, we keep cost of living and student needs in mind as we know that many of our students use financial aid and apply for multiple scholarships to help with their education costs.

We do our best to give students flexibility to be as frugal as necessary. Program elements that are optional are separated so that students can choose what they want to include in their experience, allowing them to control their overall expenses. In the interest of transparency, we are committed to being detailed and clear regarding our program fees, what is included in those fees, and our estimates for expenses that are not included in those fees.

We also provide program-specific interactive budget sheets on our website, so students have the ability to estimate and compare the full costs associated with their study abroad experience (program fees, airfare, meals, housing, and so on) before applying to a program. These budget sheets also serve as a financial tool to help students budget once they have been accepted.

SCHOLARSHIPS & DISCOUNTS

USAC awards more than \$2 million in internal scholarships and discounts (such as our returning student discount) to assist students with their study abroad expenses. Scholarship awards typically range from \$500 to \$2,500. USAC has a dedicated scholarships team who works closely with students throughout the scholarship application process and helps them to identify and apply for external scholarships as well. The Scholarships team also holds free webinars for students and advisors to attend. These webinars provide tips and advice for completing the USAC scholarship applications, as well as external scholarships such as the Benjamin A. Gilman and Freeman-ASIA applications. You can find upcoming webinars at usac.edu/webinars.

Academic Framework

Courses and faculty for USAC Specialty Programs are vetted and approved by the consortium. Course descriptions are available on the USAC website and syllabi are available upon request to facilitate the evaluation and transfer of credit to a student's home university.

The minimum faculty credential to teach on our Specialty Programs is a master's degree, although most professors hold terminal degrees. Local faculty experience varies, with the average time teaching for USAC being approximately 10 years. USAC does not offer tenure for faculty abroad; consequently, all Specialty Program professors must receive above average/excellent student evaluations to have their contract extended. The overall program, courses, and faculty are evaluated by students after each term. Serious attention is given to these evaluations, and they are reviewed by the faculty, Resident Director, academic supervisors (if appropriate), and by professionals at the USAC Central Office.

All universities hosting USAC Partnership Programs are accredited through their regional or national educational accrediting agencies.

LANGUAGE TRACKS

Language courses are offered in an intensive format on many USAC programs. Options vary by USAC program location, but students typically enroll in two, three, or four language courses during each semester, depending on their level. These courses are taught sequentially and are referred to as "tracks." Intensive language study allows students to complete up to two years of language study in one semester. During the summer or January programs, one language course can be completed in each three to six week session. More information on language tracks at each program site can be found on the USAC website.

In addition to the intensive language tracks, many programs offer one to two singular courses that students can take to learn the language. Most students take at least one language course while abroad. Students can also enhance their language competency through language partners and local interaction in the community.

INTERNSHIPS

Many USAC programs provide formal internship opportunities that allow students to earn academic credit while obtaining relevant professional experience. Our Resident Directors work with students to identify possible internship placements which are relevant to their interests and skills. Students earn one to three credits while participating in an internship, depending on the number of hours worked. Additional internship opportunities may be available directly through the host university on USAC Partnership Programs.

SERVICE LEARNING

Service learning courses for credit are also available in select locations. Service learning differs from volunteering in that there is a conceptual component addressed in a traditional classroom setting that is then complemented by experiential learning in the community. Projects and opportunities vary, but may include rural exposure programs and overnight camps in local villages to educate disadvantaged populations, work in refugee camps, or advocacy and awareness programs. Students will also be introduced to topics such as social services, HIV/AIDS, poverty, and women's rights.

Health and Safety

EMERGENCY & HEALTH/SAFETY PROCEDURES

The health and safety of students is USAC's top priority. USAC provides comprehensive safety information to students before and during their study abroad experience. These include safety tips in program updates, the student handbook, and discussions involving health and safety issues during the on-site student orientations. USAC has developed extensive and specific crisis management and emergency response procedures to address various types of emergencies (i.e. natural disaster, accident/illness, etc.). Our staff, in the Central Office and on-site, also receive ongoing health and safety training to best address all health and safety needs.

Our on-site staff help students find local resources for physical and mental health needs, with an English speaking provider or provide translation services. Additionally, USAC staff maintain the contact information for embassies, consulates, national and international security organizations, and professional networks to aid in emergency situations. Communication with the students' home universities is ongoing, so you can be assured that you will be notified should any emergency arise.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The USAC Health & Safety team monitors the U.S. Department of State Travel Advisories and Warnings, bulletins from the Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) reports and updates, and other relevant websites, daily, for any world events that may affect program sites and/or participants. In the event of a true crisis, the USAC Director, USAC Crisis Management team, and on-site staff collaborate to ensure student safety. Each Specialty Program site is registered at the appropriate U.S. Embassy and Consulate, who would communicate directly with the on-site Resident Director regarding a safety plan, if necessary.

EMERGENCY PLAN

USAC is committed to prevention and preparation for any unplanned events or circumstances. In the event of a true emergency, the Resident Director or other on-site staff member will report the incident or circumstances to the USAC Central Office and discuss any needed follow up. As necessary, the USAC Health and Safety Manager will convene the Crisis Management team who will assess the situation and determine the appropriate response. For large-scale emergencies impacting one or more program locations, USAC utilizes a Crisis Management System (CMS) to confirm the whereabouts of our students. This CMS is accessible to our university partners via the USAC advisor portal which provides a way to confirm that students are accounted for. The system includes a feature that permits universities to provide student safety updates to USAC, as well. USAC staff will communicate with the students' emergency contacts and home universities and will post updates on the USAC website. Students are advised to contact their parents, guardians, or other emergency contacts immediately to reassure them of their safety. The Crisis Management team convenes after emergency events to discuss best practices and implement suggested changes to emergency procedures.

HEALTH INSURANCE

All USAC students are required to have health insurance coverage while studying abroad, and therefore are automatically enrolled in the USAC health insurance administered by CISI. The USAC insurance is included in the program fee and provides comprehensive health insurance coverage including:

- \$500,000 in medical coverage, including mental health
- Pre-existing condition coverage up to \$10,000
- Zero deductible plan with no out-of-pocket expenses
- · Emergency medical evacuation and repatriation of remains
- Security evacuation up to \$100,000
- 24/7 medical, travel, and technical assistance

24-HOUR EMERGENCY LINE

USAC has a 24-hour emergency contact available to students and their parents. Our main toll-free number for use during office hours is 1-866-404-USAC (1-866-404-8722). If calling after regular business hours, the recording will provide an alternate phone number for the emergency contact who will be able to connect with overseas staff, if necessary.

Benefits of Working with USAC

We're dedicated to providing affordable, quality study abroad programs, in addition to providing the best experience for students and universities. From our inception as a consortium-based organization, meaningful relationships with our partner universities have been at the core of what we do. Together, we are partners in international education and we take that partnership seriously. That's why, in addition to our program features, we offer a variety of benefits and services to the universities we work with.

ANNUAL TRAINING

We host annual training sessions at the Central Office in Reno, Nevada. These visits provide universities with an opportunity to meet with the entire USAC staff, learn more about our programs and procedures, and network with other university representatives. USAC may be able to assist with or subsidize a portion of this trip in the form of a travel grant for one staff member from universities who have signed an Inter-Institutional Agreement with USAC.

SITE VISITS

We regularly host visits to our overseas sites to provide an in-depth look of our programs so you gain a better understanding of students' study abroad experience with USAC. On the site visit, participants explore the city; see campus and housing locations; visit internship and volunteer sites; sit in on classes; and meet the Resident Directors and faculty.

USAC ADVISOR PORTAL

We have developed our own software to track and report on students who are applying to, enrolling in, and attending USAC programs. The USAC Global database provides advisors instant access to up-to-date status and information on students' application progress, including: detailed student account information; the ability to see what forms have been submitted and what documents have been read; access to the USAC Resource Library, which contains syllabi, detailed cost/budget information, etc. for each of the USAC programs; grade and transcript information; real-time program capacities; the Crisis Management System; and the ability to create custom reports to meet your internal needs.

STREAMLINED PROCESS FOR STUDENTS AND ADVISORS

In most instances, we can tailor processes to meet the internal needs of your university. Our Inter-Institutional Arrangements Form addresses the following areas: home university approval, enrollment and transcription procedures, crediting of scholarships, and billing arrangements.

ASSESMENT DATA

We conduct comprehensive program and course evaluations, as well as collect and track the growth of academic and cultural competencies of our students. This is important to the assessment and auditing of our processes and programs.

DEDICATED UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COORDINATORS

The USAC University Relations team has dedicated professionals who serve as the primary liaison to universities across the United States. The role of the University Relations Coordinator is to collaborate and troubleshoot with university staff to ensure that students participating on USAC programs have the best experience possible. From assisting you in finding the best program for a particular student, discussing billing options for your institution, to supporting study abroad promotion and outreach on your campus, your University Relations Coordinator is ready to help. The team also conducts campus visits and attends study abroad fairs across the country. If you would like to get started working with USAC, please contact Sabrina Harris, University Relations Manager, at sabrina.harris@usac.edu to be connected to your regional University Relations Coordinator.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

There may be additional grants and scholarship opportunities your university and students may have access to that are determined by the details of any signed interinstitutional agreement and/or arrangements forms between your university and USAC.