

ANNUAL REPORT

International Programs & Offerings

**University of North Alabama
Florence, Alabama**

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Date submitted

Submitted to: Dr. Lauren Killen
Chair, Shared Governance Executive Committee

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

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2025-2026

I. Executive Summary

During the 2025-2026 academic year, the IPO committee assisted International Affairs with the second annual Education Abroad fair held in November 2025 and recommended 164 students for the UNA Educational Abroad Scholarship. Scholarship funding supported three ISEP students (at \$1,300.00 each or \$3,900.00 total), 135 first-time travelers for faculty-led study abroad (at \$1,250.00 each or \$165,750.00 total), and 26 second-time travelers for faculty-led trips (at \$850.00 each or \$22,100.00 total). The remaining \$8,250 was held in reserve to support Fall 2026 student travel for eligible students. In addition to the ISEP program, 16 international faculty-led trips were planned (ACONHP: 3 trips; CASE: 8 trips; COEHS: 1 trip; SCOB: 5 trips) with three trips (one trip each in CASE, COEHS, and SCOB) being canceled due to low enrollment.

II. The Committee's Charge (from the Shared Governance Document)

1. To serve as an advisory committee to international programs/offers on campus;
2. To assist the Office of International Affairs with information related to international programs/offers on campus;
3. To provide a mechanism for coordinating all programs/offers within various colleges as well as other areas on campus;
4. To serve as a mechanism for international offers/program development;
5. To appraise and approve the education abroad scholarship applications;
6. To handle any proposals the committee may make affecting university policy according to section C.2 "Shared Governance Procedure for Policy Change Recommendations";
7. To submit a final written report electronically by the first day of the fall semester to the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs with a copy sent to the Chair of the SGEC.

III. The Committee met on the following dates:

The committee met via MS Teams on 9.26.25 and 2.11.26. E-business, including voting, was conducted in October 2025, November 2025, December 2025, and April 2026.

IV. What were the Committee's actions and accomplishments this year relative to each of the items of the charge?

Charge #1. To serve as an advisory committee to international programs/offering on campus

- The IPO Committee reviewed the Education (Ed) Abroad Scholarship guidelines, award amounts, and timeline for applications and awards. Successful scholarship applicants would meet the criteria of:
 - Full time UNA student status during the Spring 2026 term
 - Enrolled in a degree seeking UNA program
 - Have an institutional GPA of 3.0 or higher
 - Preference was given to first time applicants

Charge #2. To assist the Office of International Affairs with information related to international programs/offering on campus

- IPO committee members (many of which were trip leaders) helped with the Education Abroad Fair held in the GUC on Wednesday, 11.19.25

Charge #3. To provide a mechanism for coordinating all programs/offering within various colleges as well as other areas on campus

- 16 Faculty-led study abroad and one faculty-led study away trips were planned for Summer 2026. This included 3 trips by ACONHP, 8 trips by CASE, 1 trip by COEHS, and 5 trips by SCOB. Three trips (1 in SCOB, 1 in CASE, and 1 in COEHS) were canceled.
- The Committee verified trip acceptance of scholarship recipients before announcing awards.

Charge #4. To serve as a mechanism for international offerings/program development

- SLATE was used for the Ed Abroad scholarship application and review process.
- After conversations with International Affairs, the IPO vice-chair, and the SLATE coordinator, SLATE was used to send reminders to award applicants regarding post-trip essays. SLATE will be further developed in AY2026/2027 for linking awards with Scholarships, award notices, and other IPO communications to Ed Abroad scholarship applicants.

Goal #5. To appraise and approve the education abroad scholarship applications

- The Committee received and reviewed 184 unique applications for the Ed Abroad Scholarship recommending 164 students for first time (\$1,250.00), second time (\$850.00), and ISEP (\$1,300.00) awards to the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Goal #6. To handle any proposals the committee may make affecting university policy according to section C.2 "Shared Governance Procedure for Policy Change Recommendations"

- No proposals were submitted to Shared Governance related to policy change.

Goal #7. To submit a final written report electronically by the first day of the fall semester to the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs with a copy sent to the Chair of the SGEC.

- This report will meet the requirements for this goal with the final report being submitted to the Provost and SGEC Chair on 8.7.26.

V. What were the Committee's formal recommendations?

The IPO Committee recommended that 164 students receive funding via the Ed Abroad Scholarship. The breakdown of awards was:

- 3 ISEP students (at \$1,300.00 each)
- 135 First time awards for Faculty-led Study Abroad (at \$1,250.00 each)
- 26 Second time awards for Faculty-led Study Abroad (at \$850.00 each)
- 4 awards were returned for students who were no longer completing a Study Abroad experience.

VI. What does the Committee plan to accomplish?

A. In the coming year?

The IPO will continue to further refine the UNA Ed Abroad Scholarship criteria, application and award timelines, and the implementation of SLATE to provide a more seamless communication method across different University groups, specifically the IPO Committee with Academic Affairs, Trip leaders/ liaisons, Scholarships, and award applicants.

IPO has already planned to work with International Affairs for the Education Abroad Fair on 9.28.26.

B. In future years?

For future years, the IPO will continue to review and recommend applicants for the Ed Abroad scholarship and promote education abroad.

VII. What are the Committee's weaknesses?

Two challenges that were overcome this year were changes within University positions within Academic Affairs and Scholarship offices and IPO leadership due to the loss of last year's (AY 2024/2025) IPO chair. Former IPO Chair (AY 2023/2024) Dr. Matt Oglesby was an incredible help in tracking down who to contact as our Scholarship liaison and how much funding to expect with the FY 2026 budget for the Ed Abroad scholarship. As the current IPO chair, I have developed a file that now includes our contacts within Scholarships, Academic Affairs, and the expected scholarship amount and added to the timeline of the IPO committee's work that was developed by Dr. Oglesby. While tracking down these contacts took time and some effort, almost everyone was incredibly helpful throughout the year.

A. What can the Shared Governance Committee help you do to address the weaknesses?

To address the above concerns, it would be helpful if Shared Governance could:

- 1) Provide an account number for the UNA Education Abroad scholarship so that the account amount can be verified as soon as the new fiscal year begins. This would help to open scholarship applications earlier and thereby make awards earlier so that students (and trip leaders) would have access to the scholarship monies for trip costs and student trip balance purposes.
- 2) Consider creating a non-voting position on the committee for the former IPO chair much like what is done with Faculty Senate. This would allow the previous year's chair to provide any guidance that the current IPO chair may need in terms of what worked well, problems that arose during the previous year, or process/ procedure questions without disrupting the structure of the committee.

VIII. Comments

Overall, the IPO Committee completed a successful year with promoting Education Abroad, working with International Affairs, and recommending 164 students for funding for international educational opportunities. Thank you to the committee members for their hard work and effort! And thank you to Academic Affairs and Scholarships for their guidance and help in determining the scholarship budget and getting awards to the students.