

ALL STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS NEED PARTNERS

In the field of study abroad, the term program provider refers to an entity that administers study abroad programs. These entities may be for-profit or not-for-profit organizations such as study abroad companies, travel agencies, professional organizations or universities. These entities can be U.S. based or abroad.

The role of the program provider is to compliment the academic objectives and facilitate a culturally engaging experience for students, which enables the faculty leader to focus on learning outcomes.

Providers design, implement, and support study abroad programs based on the program's curricular objectives. By utilizing their existing infrastructure, universities have the flexibility to expand their program offerings while maintaining full oversight of curriculum.

While faculty may have personal or professional contacts abroad who may be able to assist in developing a study abroad program, sometimes that kind of assistance might not be the optimal option to cover all elements necessary for a successful program, and to ensure the highest standards of health and safety practices. Program providers can offer a **comprehensive service** and will do more than just help with logistics.

Overall advantages of working with a program provider:



One comprehensive contract with a single provider can cover all aspects of the program, as opposed to needing multiple contracts.



The institution can distribute funds for all aspects of the program to a single program provider thus streamlining processes.



Providers, particularly if they are based in the United States, understand the institution's concerns related to health and safety and carry liability insurance.



Their expertise helps minimize risk and liability for the institution.



Provide on-site/regional support to students and faculty leaders in challenging or emergency situations.

The program provider may include the following:



Staff member to assist the group upon arrival and on location



Emergency services



Local expertise and resources



Airport pick-up



Accommodation in home stays, hotels, apartments or dorms



Local cell phones for faculty



Public transportation (tickets/passes)



In-country group transportation



Classroom space



Orientation meetings, guided sightseeing, welcome packs etc.



Excursions and cultural activities



Service learning or volunteering



Guest speakers or lectures



Liability insurance



Promotional materials and pre-departure information

While the cost of a third-party program may be slightly more than if you were to make arrangements on your own, and the provider's arrangements allows you to focus on teaching, learning, and course content without the hassle, worry, and the liability that comes with self-arranged programs.



A third party provider is an essential part of any study abroad program. Our provider not only knows the local culture, and provides contacts with local businesses, health care providers, local guides and translators, but also reduces the APD's risks and liabilities.

Dr. Jack Mogab
Director of the Institute for Global Business
APD Prague program



Working with a third-party provider has been to our great advantage. Our Austin-based third-party provider works hard to customize our study abroad program and to meet our program requirements. The provider arranges accommodations, local transportation, specified meals and even works with us to coordinate our field visits. The company arranges air tickets for faculty and any students traveling with us or on their own, if they requested. At our request, they also found us an excellent local tour manager who assists us and stays with us throughout the duration of our program. This enables faculty to focus on teaching their classes and spend time discussing with their students rather than worry about the logistics of the program.

Dr. Sandy Rao
Assistant Dean of The Graduate College
APD London-Rome program