



Study Abroad & Global Experiences Annual Report 2020-2021

VALENCIA COLLEGE

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A. SHORT-TERM STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS:

Due to the continued challenges with the global COVID-19 pandemic, the college determined it was in the best interest of health and safety to keep SAGE’s short-term study abroad programs closed. This determination was made after the SAGE Committee reviewed and approved programs for 2021. Below are the programs that were tentatively approved by the SAGE Committee but did not move forward for secondary approval by the International Education Connections Team.

Term	Program	Program Leader/s	Course	Notes
Spring	Netherlands	Suzette Ashton & Jonathan Lair	IDH 2955 Honors Interdisciplinary	Did not move forward due to COVID-19
Spring	Italy	April Engel	HUN 2933 Special Topics in Nutrition	Did not move forward due to COVID-19
Spring	Antigua & Barbuda	Joy Benjamin-Fieulleateau & Roberta Carew	SLS 2940 Service Learning	Did not move forward due to COVID-19
Early Summer	Peru	Bryan Spangler	SLS 2940 Service Learning	Did not move forward due to COVID-19
Early Summer	Canada	Charlotte Mortimer	MGF 1106 College Mathematics	Did not move forward due to COVID-19
Late Summer	Canada	Adrienne Mathews & Heather Ramsier	INR 2002 International Politics	Did not move forward due to COVID-19
Late Summer	Portugal & Morocco	Marsha Butler & Melissa Schreiber	SLS 2940 Service Learning	Did not move forward due to COVID-19
Late Summer	England & France	Heith Hennel & Jerry Hensel	CGS 2038C IT for International Business Travel	Did not move forward due to COVID-19

B. PROGRAM LEADER-IN-TRAINING MENTORSHIP:

Due to the continued cancellation of short-term programs and disruption of travel, no PLITs were identified for the 2020-2021 cycle. Funding pledged for PLITs was moved to other virtual initiatives.

C. SAGE PROGRAM LEADER CERTIFICATION:

Due to the college moving to remote operation and the continued suspension of travel, the fall 2021 SAGE Program Leader Certification was not offered by Faculty Development.

D. ENDOWED CHAIR FUNDING:

Due to the continued cancellation of short-term study abroad programs, SAGE faculty members did not pursue Endowed Chair funding for short-term study abroad.

E. NEW SHORT-TERM STUDY ABROAD PROVIDER:

The SAGE Office was in the process of bringing in a new vendor, Bon Vivant Education Tours, when the 2021 cancellations occurred. Bon Vivant was approved to be the provider for the two proposed Canada programs: College Mathematics and International Politics. Bon Vivant has over 15 years’ experience in educational design and specializes in creating customized academic programs in Eastern Canada. While we were not able to officially onboard Bon Vivant as a new vendor, we hope to continue the partnership and work with this provider in the future.

F. SAGE STUDENT AMBASSADORS:

Due to the cancellations of 2020 programs and the continued cancellations of 2021 programs, the SAGE Student Ambassador program was paused.

G. SEMESTER ABROAD STUDENT AND SCHOLARSHIP SUMMARY:

Due to the continued challenges with the global COVID-19 pandemic, the college determined it was in the best interest of health and safety to keep semester abroad programs closed. In addition, the majority of the SAGE Office's semester abroad partners had also cancelled their semester abroad programs due to the closure of international borders, restrictions on visas/incoming international students, and issues with health/safety.

H. EXCHANGE STUDENT SUMMARY:

Due to the continued challenges with the global COVID-19 pandemic, the college determined it was in the best interest of health and safety to keep exchange programs closed.

II. Internationalizing the Curriculum (INZ)

A. INTERNATIONALIZING THE CURRICULUM (INZ) PD COURSE:

Due to the pandemic and campus closures, INDV 3351 Internationalizing the Curriculum (INZ) was not offered in the 2020-2021 cycle.

B. COURSE INTERNATIONALIZATION TOOLKITS:

Due to the INDV 3351 PD course not being offered in the 2020-2021 cycle, no new toolkits were taken to the committee for approval.

C. COLLABORATIVE ONLINE INTERNATIONAL LEARNING (COIL):

As the world closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and traditional study abroad opportunities dissipated, SAGE joined forces with institutions worldwide to keep globalization alive for students. Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) is a pedagogy that emphasizes collaboration, internationalization, cross-cultural competence, technology, and accessibility. In the COIL model, students from different cultures enroll in shared courses with faculty members from different countries co-teaching and managing coursework. The SAGE Office identified and recruited prospective faculty members to engage in COIL virtual exchanges, both through formal project-based collaborations and informal co-curricular exchanges.

After a semester of training and planning, the inaugural COIL exchange took place in spring 2021 with Professor of Computer Programming and Analysis, Jerry Hensel, entering into a collaboration with Universidad de Sonora (UNISON) in Hermosillo, Mexico. Jerry partnered with Dr. Julio Saucedo, an astronomy professor, to help create a database and website for tracking asteroids in the solar system. Dr. Saucedo will use these prototypes to help in research of statistical properties of asteroids and locate the trajectory of near-Earth objects (NEOs) that might someday be on a collision course with the Earth. Jerry taught CIS 2910 (IT capstone course) in spring 2021, which allowed 20 of his students to collaborate with 10 astronomy students from UNISON to develop and create the database and website. Along the way, the SAGE Office brought in guest speakers and provided icebreaker events so that students from both institutions could get to know each other and build trust. The course lasted for 16 weeks and was completely interdisciplinary from two STEM fields — IT and Astronomy. The collaboration allowed students to appreciate different cultures, customs, languages, and perceptions from the two different countries.

D. NEW VIRTUAL INTERNATIONALIZED CONTENT PROVIDERS:

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic and pause of traditional study abroad mobility, the SAGE Office contracted three vendors to provide virtual walking tours, cultural sessions, and global guest speakers. These vendors are WorldStrides, Woyago, and Study Abroad Association. WorldStrides, founded in 1967, is a company that provides experiential learning and

customized virtual and onsite study abroad programs. Woyago, a Parisian tour company founded in 2014, provides onsite guided tours of Paris and Barcelona, which were converted to virtual delivery in 2020. Study Abroad Association, founded in 2009, is a worldwide company providing study abroad, virtual tours, guest speakers, and virtual international experiences through their online platform, 360 GLE.

E. NEW VIRTUAL STUDY ABROAD PLATFORM:

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic and pause of traditional study abroad mobility, the SAGE Office received a Foundation Mini-Grant to purchase 360 GLE, an interactive platform featuring immersive international education learning materials from all over the world. The library of embedded content in 360 GLE can be used by faculty and institutions to: 1) supplement/enhance courses, 2) recruit students to future in-person study abroad programs, 3) achieve internationalization and DEI goals, and 4) provide immersive experiences for students. With the mini-grant and subsequent subscription, all Valencia College students and staff could access the full platform for free. The platform, which is accessible any time through smartphones, tablets, laptops, desktops, and VR headsets, features over 1,800 globally infused educational videos from 65 locations around the world with over 150 disciplines represented.

III. Valencia Global Distinction (VGD)

A. VGD STUDENT SUMMARY:

Valencia Global Distinction is SAGE's program with the goal to prepare students to live/work in an interdependent and multicultural world and to have the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of a competent global citizen. Students can choose between two pathways of program completion: Tier 1) Global Ambassador and Tier 2) Global Citizen. In order to graduate as a Global Ambassador, students take four internationalized courses from the VGD Internationalized Course List and complete 15 points of global co-curricular activities. In order to graduate as a Global Citizen, students take four internationalized courses from the VGD Internationalized Course List, complete 15 points of global co-curricular activities, and present a final capstone project with the support of a VGD Advisor. Upon completion of the program, Global Ambassadors are awarded a certificate of completion, small graduation gift, and a letter of recommendation. Upon completion of the program, Global Citizens are awarded a certificate of completion, small graduation gift, letter of recommendation, official notation on their transcript, and a medallion worn at graduation. During the 2020-2021 program cycle, twenty-four students enrolled in VGD and fourteen students successfully completed the program earning either Global Ambassador or Global Citizen status.

GLOBAL AMBASSADORS	
Name of Graduate	Campus
Fabiana Alcalá	Osceola Campus
Juan Diego Espinoza	West Campus
Anaisabele Rodriguez	Osceola Campus

GLOBAL CITIZENS			
Name of Graduate	Campus	Mentor	Capstone Project
Staphana Edouard	West Campus	Lindi Kourtellis	Water Scarcity in Haiti
Nadia Vidal	West Campus	Jerry Hensel	Ocean Pollution Worsened by COVID-19
Charleigh Walker	Winter Park Campus	Aby Boumarate	Global Studies Track
Paige Bero	Poinciana Campus	Tami Gitto	More Eco in our System
Uyen Le	Virtual (Vietnam)	Wayne Bart	E-Portfolio Presentation
Brent Marrero Pagan	Osceola Campus	Vivian Ruiz	The Uyghur Muslim Genocide
John Baldwin	Winter Park Campus	Vannia Ruiz	Global Studies Track
Maria Eduarda De Azevedo	West Campus	Melissa Schreiber	Most Efficient Public Health Systems
Christopher Dion	Lake Nona Campus	Vivian Ruiz	The Voice of Flamenco
Sebastian Valenzuela	Poinciana Campus	Tami Gitto	FCIE Conference: Study Abroad Greece 2019
Anna Holovach	Osceola Campus	Wayne Bart	E-Portfolio Presentation

B. HIGHLIGHTED VGD GRADUATES:

The SAGE Office is highlighting two outstanding graduates during the 2020-2021 cycle:

Nadia Vidal – During her time in the Valencia Global Distinction program, Nadia traveled to Greece on a Service Learning study abroad program to study sea turtles, habitat restoration, and ocean conservation. When she returned home, she completed her VGD capstone project on how COVID-19 and the use of disposable plastics accelerated ocean pollution around the world. Her experience in ocean conservation and study abroad made her an ideal recipient for the Jose Serrano Scholarship with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The scholarship, awarded to about twenty college students each year, is an opportunity for students at minority-serving institutions. With this scholarship, Nadia is able to work with NOAA for two years. She will be on a team studying how climate change is impacting loggerhead turtle habitats and nesting populations.

Uyen Le – During her time in the Valencia Global Distinction program, Uyen, an international student, completed the 2020-2021 academic year from her home in Vietnam. She served on the V.I.S.A. Club's Board of Officers in the role of Vice President. From Vietnam (and with an extreme time zone difference), she was able to successfully take several classes at Valencia, complete Valencia Global Distinction, and hold this important role in the V.I.S.A. Club. She also helped to organize online events, such as *Rhythm: Heartbeat of Nations* for International Education Week.

C. VGD ADVISOR UPDATE:

Valencia Global Distinction welcomed two new VGD Advisors: Wayne Bart, Assistant Director of Advising on Osceola Campus, and Jerry Hensel, Professor of Computer Programming and Analysis on East Campus. Wayne worked with students Anna Holovach, from Ukraine, and Uyen Le, from Vietnam. Professor Hensel worked with student Nadia Vidal.

IV. Valencia Programming and Events

A. INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK (IEW):

With the closure of Valencia College campuses due to COVID-19, IEW was transitioned to a fully online event. Conducting IEW in a virtual format gave the opportunity for SAGE to bring in guests and tours from around the world. SAGE collaborated with MAP Club, study abroad professors, PJI, V.I.S.A. Club, Career Center, East Campus Learning Support, and WorldStrides to create and host sessions. 775 participants connected to 18 Zoom sessions throughout the week.

Date	Country/Region	Event	Organizers/Presenters
Monday, Nov 16 th	India	Meet me on Zoom: Breaking Walls & Building International Friendships	Dr. Yasmeen Qadri & MAP Club
Monday, Nov 16 th	Ireland	Startups, Entrepreneurship, and Marketing Strategies Abroad	SAGE Office & WorldStrides
Monday, Nov 16 th	Ireland	Dublin Virtual Tour	SAGE Office & WorldStrides
Monday, Nov 16 th	Asia	A Discussion About Cultural Differences and Experiences Living & Working in East Asia	Jason Davis (ISRGE)
Tuesday, Nov 17 th	Spain	Consumer Trends in Spain and Beyond	SAGE Office & WorldStrides
Tuesday, Nov 17 th	Worldwide	Professional Passport: Explore Careers Abroad	Career Center
Tuesday, Nov 17 th	Spain	Flamenco in Spain	SAGE Office & WorldStrides
Tuesday, Nov 17 th	Worldwide	Health Education Abroad	Professor Melissa Schreiber
Tuesday, Nov 17 th	Worldwide	Better Together- The Value of Cross-Race Friendships	Skillshops & Counseling
Tuesday, Nov 17 th	Worldwide	Rhythm - The Heartbeat of Nations	V.I.S.A. Club
Wednesday, Nov 18 th	Worldwide	Peace Breakfast: An Interfaith Gathering	PJI
Wednesday, Nov 18 th	Costa Rica	Healthcare Initiatives in Costa Rica	SAGE Office & WorldStrides

Wednesday, Nov 18 th	Costa Rica	Banana Plantation Tour & Cooking Class Demo	SAGE Office & WorldStrides
Thursday, Nov 19 th	Peru	Environmental Challenges and Concerns in Peru	SAGE Office & WorldStrides
Thursday, Nov 19 th	Peru	Touring Peru with Rudy	SAGE Office & WorldStrides
Thursday, Nov 19 th	United Kingdom	Short-Term Study Abroad: The Good, Bad, and Funny	Professor Charlotte Mortimer
Friday, Nov 20 th	Worldwide	Cultural Conversation Hour	Aysha Aslam & East Learning Support
Friday, Nov 20 th	Worldwide	Tips for Students Traveling on Short-Term Study Abroad Programs	Lindi Kourtellis and Professor Jerry Hensel



B. NATIONAL STUDY ABROAD CELEBRATION:

The SAGE Office celebrated its inaugural National Study Abroad Celebration in honor of National Study Abroad Day, which was held on Monday, February 22nd. Throughout the week, participants engaged with local guides and guest speakers from around the world. In addition to live walking tours, SAGE organized sessions focused on culture, health, business, sustainability, and eco-tourism. All events were free and open to everyone at the college. Over 500 participants connected to the eight sessions throughout the week.

Date	Country/Region	Event	Organizers/Presenters
Monday, Feb 22 nd	India	India Live Streaming Session	SAGE Office & Study Abroad Association
Monday, Feb 22 nd	France	Woyago Paris Session: Technology, Business, and Culture	SAGE Office, Woyago & Professor Heith Hennel
Monday, Feb 22 nd	Costa Rica	Costa Rica Live Stream Session and Cooking Demo	SAGE Office & Study Abroad Association
Tuesday, Feb 23 rd	Worldwide	Conversation with World Health Organization (WHO)	SAGE Office, WorldStrides & Professor Melissa Schreiber
Wednesday, Feb 24 th	Spain	Madrid Walking Tour with Fabrizio	SAGE Office & Study Abroad Association
Thursday, Feb 24 th	Australia	EMS in Australia	SAGE Office, WorldStrides & Professor Bryan Spangler
Thursday, Feb 25 th	United Kingdom	London Walking Tour with Becky	SAGE Office & Study Abroad Association
Friday, Feb 26 th	Italy	Rome Walking Tour with Francesco	SAGE Office & Study Abroad Association



C. GLOBAL GUEST SPEAKERS:

With the COVID-19 pandemic pausing travel, the SAGE Office introduced a new internationalizing initiative, Global Guest Speakers (GGS), to continue to bring international educational experiences to students. GGS provides students a unique opportunity to hear from industry experts around the world, explore international careers, and engage in topics with a global impact. SAGE partnered with faculty from disciplines around the college to pinpoint speakers and locations of interest. Some of the guest speakers were integrated into larger events, such as International Education Week, while others were scheduled during corresponding national celebrations, such as National Nutrition Month. The SAGE Office would like to thank the following professors for contributing to this new initiative: Heith Hennel, Jerry Hensel, Melissa Schreiber, Mayra Borrero, April Engel, Kenneth Bourgoin, Steven Rujak, Bryan Spangler, and Aby Boumarate.

Discipline	Country/Region	Guest Speaker(s)	Topic
IT/Computers	Australia	Babar Jan Haleem	Amazon Web Services (AWS)
Marketing/Business	Ireland	Priscilla Charles, Jordan Knights & Gregory Twohig	Startups, Entrepreneurship, and Marketing Strategies
IT/Business/Marketing	Spain	Eulogi Bordas Casas	Consumer Trends in Spain and Beyond
Healthcare/IT	Costa Rica	Eduardo Visa, Paola Murillo & Miguel Arrieta	Healthcare Initiatives with Royal Philips
Sustainability/Science	Peru	Jorge Alejandro Risi	Environmental Challenges and Concerns in Peru (Sociedad Nacional de Pesqueria)
Business/IT	France	Herbert Faust	Paris: Technology, Business & Culture
Science/Health	Worldwide	Dorine van der Wal & Liz Tayler	A Conversation with World Health Organization (WHO)
EMS	Australia	Jason Amos	EMS and Healthcare in Australia
Nutrition/Culinary	Portugal	Antonio Soares Franco	Wine Industry in Portugal
Nutrition/Culinary	Italy	Sibilla Gelpke, Arianna Gelpke & Aglaia Gelpke	Olive Oil Industry in Tuscany (Corzano e Paterno)
Culinary	Spain	Chef Victoria	Cooking Paella with Chef Victoria from Taller Andaluz De Cocina
Holocaust/History/Literature	Worldwide	Joanie Holzer Schirm	My Dear Boy: A World War II Story of Escape, Exile, and Revelation
Healthcare/Service	Dominican Republic	Analyse Giordano	Global Healthcare Perspectives in the Dominican Republic