On September 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., UA Study Abroad will transform the Grand Ballroom of the Student Union into a journey around the world. Students will have the opportunity to hear from faculty, staff, and especially their peers about regions of the world they may never have considered visiting, and will learn about the steps they need to take to plan their study abroad experience.

As part of the UA Strategic Plan, the University of Arizona laid out ambitious initiatives for growing the number of students that study abroad. To address this, UA Study Abroad is working with the university in two significant ways: to integrate study abroad with academic planning, and to make study abroad more accessible through the development of affordable options and increased financial aid available for study abroad programs.

The 2019 Study Abroad Fair is the first time students will be presented with these new messages. UA Study Abroad is planning for record attendance at the fair and is making significant modifications to the structure of the event to help students navigate the process. Changes will include putting greater emphasis on connecting prospective study abroad students with peers that have studied abroad, and on helping students better understand the steps they need to take and the planning resources available to them.

The obstacles that prevent a student from pursuing studying abroad typically have to do with planning. Students need to prepare financially, and they need to plan academically. While study abroad is becoming more affordable, and financial aid is becoming more available, students still assume that it is financially inaccessible. Additionally, most students go abroad in their Junior or Senior year, making it essential to integrate study abroad into their four-year degree plan as early as possible, so that they know which courses they need to set aside for their time abroad.

To help students better prepare for a study abroad experience, UA Study Abroad is inviting all UA colleges and the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid (OSFA) to have a more prominent role in the fair. As most fair attendees are Freshmen or Sophomores, UA Study Abroad hopes that integrating colleges and OSFA into the fair experience will encourage students to think about early academic planning, and will dispel the myth that study abroad is too expensive.

The University of Arizona is committed to fostering global connections and preparing students to be global citizens. UA Study Abroad programs offer unique opportunities around the world for students to develop intercultural competencies that will prepare them to thrive in an interconnected world. By participating in the UA Study Abroad Fair, representatives from OSFA and UA colleges will help solidify this message with students and will help the University meet the UA's strategic vision for global engagement.
To learn more about UA Study Abroad and the 2019 Study Abroad Fair, visit our website at
https://global.arizona.edu/study-abroad [1].

Source URL: https://uaatwork.arizona.edu/node/44682

Links
[1] https://global.arizona.edu/study-abroad