OVERVIEW

Funded through the Office of International Affairs (OIA), the Education Abroad Outcomes Assessment Research Grant provides support for UK graduate or professional students whose research focuses on U.S. education abroad. Facilitated through its Education Abroad unit, OIA will award 1-2 research grants annually up to $1,000 each. Grant recipients are required to submit their finding findings in the form of a research paper to OIA within 12 months of receiving funding.

RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS

OIA is interested in funding graduate students whose research shows promise of contributing to the advancement of education abroad outcomes assessment research. Research focus areas include, but are not restricted to, the following questions:

- What types of education abroad experiences, or what types of program characteristics, correlate positively with career satisfaction, and with success in one’s chosen career?
- Are there program characteristics and educational interventions that correlate positively with student learning in various learning domains?
- Are there approaches and practices of pre-departure and/or re-entry programs that correlate positively with gains in student learning?
- Do former education abroad participants show evidence of having acquired knowledge, perspectives, and skills that students who did not study abroad did not acquire to the same degree? Do such differences between former participants and non-participants vary over time?
- Are there skills, perspectives, and knowledge associated with specific types of education abroad programs that correlate positively with career success and/or in some way with graduate school admissions?
- To what extent does education abroad participation impact undergraduate retention and persistence to graduation?

ELIGIBILITY & RESTRICTIONS

- Applicants must be enrolled in a degree-granting UK graduate or professional program and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher (on a 4.0 scale) for all previous graduate work.
- Previous recipients are not automatically excluded, but previously submitted proposals the recipient will be considered in the review process. Grants cannot be deferred and recipients may only hold one active OIA research grant at a time. Funds are unrestricted, but must be used in accordance with standard University of Kentucky funding policies.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Proposal Cover Sheet. Click to download.
2. Proposal Narrative. The proposal narrative should be no longer than 1800 words, not including the reference list. It should encompass:
   - a description of the project and the central research question(s) and research timeline;
   - a brief summary of the relevant literature and the relationship of the proposed research to that literature;
   - a detailed, yet concise summary of the conceptual framework, research methods, data collection instruments, and modes of analysis that the project will employ;
   - the new knowledge expected to result from the proposed research, and the significance of the project both for contributing to the existing literature and for improving education abroad programming and student outcomes; and
   - a brief explanation of the relevance of the project to education abroad programming at the University of Kentucky.
3. Itemized Budget & Budget Narrative.
4. **Letter of Support.** Proposals must be supported by a letter from the department head or faculty advisor explaining how the proposed project contributes to the advancement of the student’s research objectives.

5. **Curriculum Vitae & Biography.** The Curriculum Vitae should be no longer than 5 pages and the biography should be less than 100 words.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The Education Abroad Committee of the International Advisory Council will evaluate all proposals and make award recommendations to the Director of Education Abroad, who will make final award decisions in consultation with the respective department for each finalist. The criteria used in evaluating proposals include:

- likelihood that answers to the research questions will advance understanding about the impact of education abroad programming and student outcomes;
- implications for education abroad programming improvement, including but not limited to program design, academic programming, student orientation;
- methodological rigor and the extent to which the analysis controls for self-selection among education abroad participants; and,
- generalizability of the study beyond the project’s specific populations and research sites.

Although projects are not required to address or include each of the priorities below, proposals that attend to any of the following are preferred:

- outcomes aligned with institutional or systemic change or higher education policy;
- participation of underrepresented populations in education abroad programming; and/or
- education abroad as a causal determinate in student outcomes.

**DEADLINES**

Proposals and supporting materials should be sent electronically to Dr. Anthony C. Ogden, Education Abroad Director, [a.ogden@uky.edu](mailto:a.ogden@uky.edu) by 5:00pm EST on September 1 (for research to be conducted during the academic year) or February 1 (for research to be conducted during the summer or upcoming academic year). If the deadline falls on a weekend, applications will be accepted until the following Monday at 5:00pm. Decisions will be made within 2-4 weeks of the deadline. Grant funds will be posted to the student’s UK student billing account within two weeks of award notification.

Questions should be directed to Dr. Anthony C. Ogden, [a.ogden@uky.edu](mailto:a.ogden@uky.edu).