CSU IP

A vital mission of the California State University System is to encourage efforts that promote developing intercultural communication skills and international understanding among its students. The vehicle for attainment of this mission is the Office of International Programs housed in the CSU Chancellor’s office. Initiated in 1963, the CSU International Programs (CSU IP) just closed its 53rd academic year. In that time, the program has sent over 15,000 students to recognized institutions in 18 countries. Currently, CSU IP serves students in over 100 majors.

The Cal Poly International Center is the conduit for all Cal Poly study abroad programs including Cal Poly Led Programs, Exchange Programs, Cal Poly Affiliate Programs, as well as the CSU IP. While each different Cal Poly offered study abroad opportunity is different, the CSU IP is the only yearlong study abroad program available to our students. The CSU IP is a single organization that accommodates all students over the 23 campuses wishing to embark on a one year study abroad adventure. One of the interesting features of this program is that regardless of which of the current 18 countries that the CSU IP articulates with, the student will continue to pay the same CSU tuition consistent with the student’s home campus. While there is a $750 study abroad fee, this is, in many cases, less than the particular campus-based fees which IP students do not pay while abroad. Between the campus-based fee offset and varying costs of living in foreign countries, the net costs of annual study (that include both tuition, fees, and living expenses) are, in a number of cases, actually reduced for the students that utilize this opportunity. As such, CSU IP is a very viable study abroad option for students wishing to learn from an extended foreign stay.

In addition to acting in an advisory role to the Chancellor (by way of Leo Van Cleve, State University Dean and Director of the International Programs) on the strategic direction of the CSU IP, the primary role of the faculty representatives to the ACIP (Academic Council on International Programs) is to screen student applicants. As the applicants for CSU IP that come from the 23 campus CSU system are competing for, in some cases, a limited number of slots, consistency in the application process for students is mandated.
The Academic Council on International Programs (ACIP) is comprised of a faculty representative from each of the 23 CSU campuses, two members from the state-wide Academic Senate, four International Programs (IP) Coordinator liaisons, and four student alumni representatives. The ACIP has four standing committees: Academic and Fiscal Affairs, Faculty Affairs, Program Review, and Student Affairs that meet physically twice a year. The meetings are held in the Fall in Long Beach at the Chancellor’s office and in the Spring at one of the CSU campuses that changes each year. The Spring meeting was cancelled this year due to the potential CSU-wide faculty strike. Each faculty member of ACIP representing his/her University interviews/evaluates each student applicant (in panel format) consistent with the procedures universal to the program. For each student applicant, the ACIP faculty member assembles a diverse interview panel comprised of recruited faculty members with an interest in international education, staff members of the Cal Poly International Center, and past student CSU IP participants. For each interview panel and corresponding student, the interview is conducted, and a faculty evaluation letter is composed and submitted to the Student Affairs committee for final student program selection. There are currently 65 Cal Poly faculty members that have participated in some aspect within the last four years or have expressed an interest in participating. Fourteen interview panelists participated during AY 2015-2016. In addition to serving on a standing sub-committee and orchestrating student interviews, the faculty representative to the ACIP is responsible for disseminating information regarding the application process for Resident Director (RD) positions currently available for the programs in France, Spain, and Italy.

2015-2016 CSU IP Highlights and Statistics

- The 2017-2018 Resident Director positions were awarded to Irina Costache, CSU Channel Islands (Italy), Michael Lee, CSU East Bay (Spain), and Aurora Wolfgang, CSU San Bernadino (France). The RD’s for 2016-2017 are Luda Popenhagen, CSU Channel Islands (France); Kevin Fagan, Cal Poly SLO (Italy); and Juan Carlos Gallego, CSU Fullerton (Spain). For 2015-2016, the Resident Directors were: Mary Scott, SFSU (China); Elizabeth McGee, SJSU (France); Fulvio Orsitto, Chico (Italy); and Jessica Retis, CSU Northridge (Spain).
- Eleven non-architecture and 39 architecture Cal Poly students were admitted to a 2016-2017 CSU IP program.
- The Don Floyd Memorial Scholarship ($1000 to be put toward IP expenses) was awarded to 5 Cal Poly 2016-2017 IP students.
- Total revenue for AY2015-2016 is still being calculated.

2015-2016 CSU IP Changes and Updates for AY 2016-2017

- CSU IP currently has programs in Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Ghana, Israel, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, and the UK.
- Due directly to the cost per student and student growth history in the Chinese IP program, the RD position was canceled starting AY 16/17. OIP will explore ways in which to keep the program viable without an RD.
- Charles Chadwell, Cal Poly SLO, led a pilot Engineering in Mexico program with five students (all from Cal Poly) at the TEC University in Querétaro. The TEC University in Querétaro is an ABET-accredited university and articulations are currently being mapped with Cal Poly curriculum. The Engineering in Mexico program is being offered again for 2016-2017.
- Additional changes and updates will be reported at a later date.
Information for AY 2016-2017

- The deadline for student applications for all CSU IP programs (except for Australia and South Africa which is May 1 – the Australian application has been extended to September 1) has been officially moved to February 1st with late applications extending to March.
- Application deadlines for the RD positions for Spain, France, and Italy are due December 1, 2016. Details will be disseminated by the ACIP Cal Poly representative early in AY 16/17.
- Faculty/Student panel interviews will be taking place in late February/early March 2017 (if you would like to be involved, please contact the ACIP representative directly: Bridget Benson: bbenson@calpoly.edu).
- Students will be notified of their acceptance into the program in late March.
- Please encourage students to consider CSU IP, specifically Australia, Mexico, Japan, and Italy for their yearlong study abroad. These are areas that the ACIP would like to see grow in student numbers.

Academic Year 2015-2016 was my first year as your ACIP representative. I have enjoyed this post and greatly thank the Academic Senate for my appointment. Now that Charles Chadwell (your previous ACIP representative) has returned from the pilot Engineering in Mexico IP program, I hope to work with him to further strengthen this program to help support more opportunities for engineering students to be involved in IP.

For students, it has never been more important to get beyond the confines of their own borders and culture and experience the ideas and innovations that other counties can offer. The modern era is one of collaboration, globalization, and international partnership. IP Study Abroad connects students with other like minds and positions them to build relationships that may last a lifetime. Our numbers for the CSU IP AY 2015-2016 (and 16/17) were strong but we are always looking for help in encouraging students to participate in this opportunity. Please help me to disseminate information about study abroad to your colleagues and your students and please encourage them to visit our new International Center (http://international.calpoly.edu/). Please watch for information on the application deadlines for the RD positions in the Fall quarter.

Warmest regards and I wish you all a successful AY 2016-2017 and thank you again for letting me serve in this post.