



DRAFT Strategic Plan 2017-2021

MISSION

The Forum on Education Abroad serves as the collective voice of education abroad. To benefit post-secondary students participating in U.S. education abroad, The Forum develops and disseminates comprehensive standards of good practice, advocates for education abroad and its value, and engages the field in critical dialogue.

VISION

The Forum envisions a future in which education abroad is integral to the mission of higher education, meets *Standards of Good Practice*, and is accessible to all students.

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

We, The Forum believe that:

- Through education abroad, students of every background benefit from their experiences with other peoples, cultures, and countries, in ways not available on their home campus. Together these experiences advance students' personal, academic, and professional growth. In return, hosting communities and home institutions benefit from students participating in education abroad.
- Widely-accepted Standards, sustained by best practices and implemented by well-informed professionals, are critical to the stature of education abroad as a field of professional practice. The Forum's Standards must remain adaptable to the unique mission and operational model of each institution or organization engaged in education abroad.
- The Forum, as the locus of intellectual inquiry and innovative research, depends on the knowledge, experience and voice of all education abroad stakeholders and on collaboration with professions outside the field.

STRATEGIC GOALS

The Forum's Strategic Plan for 2017-2021 outlines both new and ongoing initiatives and activities. The plan seeks to expand and improve many signature activities, resources, events and programs to meet the needs of a growing and diversifying membership. At the same time,

new initiatives will keep The Forum on the cutting-edge of the education abroad field in order to help its members to meet the challenges ahead.

➤ **Critical Dialogue**

- Create new ways to provide thought leadership for the field.
- Increase the number and range of discussion-based gatherings on critical topics.
- Organize intellectual interest groups built around substantive topics.
- Produce more topical and thematic publications on trends and issues in the field of education abroad.
- Invite thought leaders and experts in a variety of fields to inform and take part in these efforts.
- Enhance the spirit of dialogue and discussion at Forum Conferences, Standards of Good Practice Institutes and other events.

➤ **Education, Training, Outreach and Professional Development**

- Expand topics and audiences for workshops and trainings and offer these in conjunction with experts in other fields when appropriate.
- Engage new audiences to build an expanded community of practice around non-credit education abroad activities.
- Broaden the range of resources and training to support best practices and the work of education abroad professionals within their organizations and institutions.
- Expand participation in the Quality Improvement Program (QUIP) and promotion of member institutions and organizations that have been recognized for meeting the *Standards of Good Practice*.
- Increase enrollment of participants in the Professional Certification Program.
- Expand the Inclusive Excellence Initiative to include revisions and updates to the Standards. Offer new workshops and trainings to guide members in achieving Inclusive Excellence in education abroad.
- Implement effective ways to provide data and resources to members according to their specific institutional or organizational type.
- Investigate career implications for students who have studied abroad.

➤ **Membership**

- Expand Forum membership among institutions and organizations that are currently underrepresented, especially non-U.S. universities, community colleges, minority-serving institutions, and businesses and organizations that provide support services for education abroad.
- Equip members to promote The Forum's vision and values and to maintain a strong voice and engagement in The Forum's work.
- Expand the range, depth and access of member resources to meet the needs of the diversity of member institutions.

➤ **Collective Voice**

- Launch a national effort that seeks to document and articulate the value of education abroad by surveying education abroad alumni.
- Expand means by which The Forum serves as the voice of education abroad for its members, in international higher education, in the media, and for the public at-large.
- Support U.S. members through state-level advocacy efforts that serve their interests.
- Expand The Forum's role as a strong advocate for education abroad within the United States and internationally.

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