

2025 Fall Conference Schedule

9:00am-10:00am	Registration & Coffee Thank you to our Registration Sponsors, AIFS Abroad and Academic Studies Abroad (ASA)!
10:00am-10:15am	Welcome Location: Hult Room
10:15am-11:15am	Session Block #1
11:30am-12:30pm	Session Block #2
12:30pm-1:30pm	Lunch Location: Hult Room Thank you to our lunch sponsors, Bunker Hill Community College and CEA CAPA Education Abroad!
1:30pm-2:30pm	Session Block #3
2:30pm-2:50pm	Coffee Break Thank you to our coffee break sponsor, Edconic!
2:50pm-4:10pm	Session Block #4: Topic-Based Round Table Discussions Location: Hult Room
4:10pm-4:20pm	Closing Remarks
4:30pm	Sips for Scholarships Happy Hour Fundraiser Location: Lingo Cafe + Bar Thank you to our Sips for Scholarships Happy Hour sponsors, EdOdyssey and ISEP Study Abroad!

Session Block #1 10:15-11:15am

Job Experience Abroad: Discussing Options to Incorporate Working Experience in Study Abroad Programming

Location: River Room

Presenter: James Curtin, Boston University

Within higher education, there has been an increased focus on employability and job outcomes for students after they complete their degree programs. For study abroad, this has led to a greater focus on international opportunities for job experiences, with a wide variety of models available for institutions to offer. This session will help participants identify their students' needs in finding work experience abroad, identify other campus partners that could help in developing and aiding programming, and then discuss different models for incorporating work experience into a study abroad experience.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify other partners, both on and off campus, to help them plan programming.
- Identify various models of incorporating work experience are available
- Have a better understanding of how to best incorporate working experience into their institution's existing structures

A Balancing Act: Application Management for Student & Staff Success

Location: Hult Room

Presenters: Grace Twardy (Boston University), Brodie Henry (Boston College), Alida Gomez (Wheaton College), Corey Blackmar (Emerson College)

Hear from Wheaton, Emerson, Boston University & Boston College about how they manage their semester study abroad applications. Hear about efficiencies (and inefficiencies) from an administrative perspective. Learn about potential barriers for students as we all are in the balancing act of ensuring access and still managing complex logistics. Take home concrete ideas of how you can streamline your application for both staff and students.

Session Block #2 11:30am-12:30pm

Student Recruitment Strategies for Short-term, Faculty-led Programs

Location: Hult Room

Presenters: Shannon Williams (Boston College), Elise Beaudin (Babson College)

Many institutions struggle to attract and recruit student participation in short-term, faculty-led programs. This interactive session explores effective strategies for increasing student participation and will examine student motivators, identify common barriers to enrollment, and learn how to design targeted outreach that will be effective on their campus. Through roundtable discussions, attendees will leave with practical tools to enhance program visibility, equity, and impact.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify key motivators for student participation in faculty-led programs
- Analyze common barriers to participation and how to overcome them
- Design targeted outreach strategies for faculty-led programs

Supporting Neurodiverse Staff, Faculty, and Student in Study Abroad

Location: River Room

Presenters: Melissa Newton (Northeastern University), Robert (Bobby) Duggleby (Northeastern University)

As the field works to make studying abroad more inclusive for students of all abilities, one group that is often overlooked is students (and faculty/staff!) who are neurodiverse. Join two international educators as they share their own experiences helping prepare others to navigate the study abroad process in a neurotypical world.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand how the study abroad experience can impact a neurodivergent individual
- Better support neurodiverse students and colleagues
- Create more inclusive study abroad programs

Session Block #3: 1:30pm-2:30pm

Supporting First-Year Success Abroad: Designing Programs with Care and Collaboration

Location: River Room

Presenters: Maggie Ovian (CEA CAPA Education Abroad), Karishma Mistry (UMass Amherst)

With college students facing increasing challenges during study abroad programs, such as mental health concerns, cultural adjustment, and academic transitions, First Year programs require intentional, multi-layered support structures. This presentation examines a case study of UMass Amherst's portfolio of First Year programs in collaboration with CEA CAPA, illustrating how strategic partnerships between institutions and providers can deliver comprehensive care for students at the start of their undergraduate journey. We will explore key design principles, support strategies, and outcomes that demonstrate the value of integrated approaches to student success abroad.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe how an institutional-provider partnership can create integrated support structures that address emotional and intercultural dimensions of student success
- Identify key components of a holistic student support system for first year students including orientation, peer mentor assistance, and family engagement
- Discuss emerging trends in student support needs and brainstorm new strategies

GRWM! Preparing for Gen Alpha's Impact on Education Abroad

Location: Hult Room

Presenters: Chelsea Kaloupek (ASA (Academic Studies Abroad)), Grace Twardy (Boston University)

We are on the cusp of a generational shift: We're only 3-5 years away from sending our first Gen Alpha students abroad. How should we prepare for the most tech savvy, racially diverse, and globally minded generation of students? With a new set of motivations, values, preferences, and learning styles - how do we engage and support them, create compelling programming, leverage technology, and successfully move them through the process? Institutions that prepare now will lead the next era of international ed and have a critical advantage in recruitment, engagement, and program design. With our collective goal in mind - to increase access to and participation in abroad programs - we will offer actionable insights about Gen Alpha students to enable future readiness.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn about the motivations, values, preferences, learning styles, and communication styles of Gen Alpha students
- Examine the impact on Education Abroad, and prepare in terms of programming, engagement, growth, communication, support, and more
- Identify potential challenges, as well as ideas and solutions for future success

Session Block #4: 2:50-4:10

Topic-Based Round Table Discussions

Location: Hult Room

Join us for round table discussions focused on topics submitted by conference participants! Discussions will be in small groups of 8-10 and participants will have 20 minutes to discuss a given topic. Each topic will be discussed with a new group of colleagues to allow everyone a chance to connect and engage in conversation.

Thank you to our sponsors for helping make today happen!

