



AJCU Conference on International Education

Flash Discussion Events: International Education Planning During the Coronavirus Pandemic

June 19, 2020

"Resources to Support International Students Who Cannot Return to the US During Fall 2020"

Summary of Ideas

The past tumultuous few months will have a significant impact on how international education takes place in the future. However, the global mission of the Society of Jesus has not changed and, if anything, is more relevant today than it may have ever been before. The AJCU Conference on International Education Flash Discussion Events are sessions in which participants can share strategies Jesuit institutions are implementing to address common challenges. Such sharing may affirm or enhance current plans, or provide ideas for new strategies or programs, including opening up opportunities for future collaborations among the institutions represented.

The purpose of these sessions is to brainstorm and generate a list of ideas, not to evaluate or critique them. The compilation of ideas provided below is provided so participants can review and evaluate their usefulness for their own institutions and in their own contexts. The two questions below were discussed during this meeting. However, it became clear in the discussion that the same strategies are applicable for both groups –continuing and new international students. Therefore, the responses to both questions appear as a single list.

The list of participants and their contact information is included at the end of the document so you may follow up with questions or opportunities to collaborate. **Below is a compilation of plans and ideas that 28 participants from 16 Jesuit universities across the world.**

If you have recommendations for additions to the information below, please send them to RenePadilla@creighton.edu by June 29, 2020 so an updated document can be circulated on July 1, 2020.

Question 1: What strategies are you considering to support *RETURNING* international students who may not be able to continue their academic program in the US during the Fall 2020 semester?

Question 2: What strategies are you considering to support *NEW* international students who may not be able to arrive in the US to begin their academic program in the US during the Fall 2020 semester?

- Identify a clear centralized contact person for international students' questions and campus community inquiries;
- Conduct orientation and other events in online format;
- Connect students to the alumni network in the students' countries;

- Courses available for international students moved online – make sure to connect students with advisors;
- Consider time zone difference – offer opportunities in the evenings.
- Include hybrid models for courses (part synchronous / part asynchronous) by structuring conversation partners as part of courses so international students who are abroad can continue to feel part of a class);
- Consider undergraduate and graduate students' academic needs separately – offer occasional integrated co-curricular events but generally separate programming may be most effective;
- Flexibility is needed for programs/courses which have a lab component. Negotiate for ways to complete the lab components once student is able to be on campus (i.e. before the beginning of the Spring 2021 semester);
- Offer to assist faculty in communication with students abroad;
- Consider reduced tuition for online courses as a temporary strategy to help students advance in their programs and persist;
- Some institutions are compressing the semester (i.e. finishing before Thanksgiving) and others will conduct in-person courses before Thanksgiving and then complete the semester online.
- Collaborate with Jesuit universities in students home countries to provide your students some supports, possibly even some courses (i.e. apply a study abroad model to students in their home countries);
- Expand contact with students who defer to Spring 2021; the more those students feel like they are connected, the more likely they are to follow through and enroll in Spring 2020;
- Provide accommodations for quarantine once student is able to arrive; offer online support programming during quarantine.
- Institute a "buddy" program with assigned contact frequency between students at abroad and in the US; for example, connect domestic students who are not able to study abroad with international students who are not able to travel to the US;
- Provide frequent updates to students abroad;
- Invite international students who are abroad to submit short video tours of their neighborhoods or favorite locations in home country;
- Make sure international student association has technology support to include students abroad in meetings – vary meeting schedule so everyone can remain involved.
- Develop a video demonstrating what online education really entails at your institution;
- Be mindful of the Jesuit ideal of accompaniment and "being there" for students – respond gently, and with care to extensive student anxiety, confusion, uncertainty
- Don't be afraid of admitting to students (and others) that we don't know and answer or what final plans will be yet;
- Continue explaining immigration outcomes and advocating about the needs of international students to administration;
- Contextualize COVID-19 as a global issue – U.S. perceptions are not global (students may feel safer at home than in the U.S.)

Special Note: The Beijing Center is offering a new program to partner schools to host their Chinese international students at the Beijing Center if these students cannot travel to the US to attend their own universities in the Fall. Programming adjustments will be made for students who would normally be returning to a university in the US (i.e. will look like a usual study abroad program) and for students who were set to begin as new students in a university in the US. For these "new" students' cost will be different (fixed cost including housing; \$10,000 USD to cover everything) and course options will be fixed up to 15 credits. Continuing students can also take courses from their home university in the US. Contact the discussion participants from The Beijing Center listed below for more information.

Event Participants

First	Last	E-Mail	Title	Institution
Brian	Smith	smith@canisius.edu	Director, Study Abroad & International Student Programs	Canisius College
Krista	Cupich Wingender	KristaCupich@creighton.edu	Global Programs Coordinator	Creighton University
Lucy	Hancock	LucyHancock@creighton.edu	Senior Coordinator of International Services	Creighton University
René	Padilla	RenePadilla@creighton.edu	Vice Provost for Global Engagement	Creighton University
Roy	Pereira	RoyPereira@creighton.edu	Anna and Donald Waite Chair	Creighton University
Tami	Renner	tamirenner@creighton.edu	Director, ISSS	Creighton University
Erasmo	Mendez	emendez18@fordham.edu	Assistant Director for Exchange Programs	Fordham University
Katie	Nollenberger	nollenberger@gonzaga.edu	International Student Advisor	Gonzaga University
Melissa	Heid	heid@gonzaga.edu	Assistant Director, ISSS	Gonzaga University
Richard	Menard	menardr@gonzaga.edu	Director of Center for Global Engagement	Gonzaga University
Fraser	Turner	fturner1@luc.edu	Director of Global Initiatives	Loyola University Chicago
Marian	Carlson	mcarl2@luc.edu	Associate Director	Loyola University Chicago
Molly	Jordan	mjordan6@luc.edu	International Student Advisor	Loyola University Chicago
Mariette	Thomas	mlthoma1@loyno.edu	Incoming Director, Center for International Education	Loyola University New Orleans
Ellen	Blauw	ellen.blauw@marquette.edu	Associate Director, Office of International Education	Marquette University
Susan	Whipple	susan.whipple@marquette.edu	Assistant Director	Marquette University
Sarah	Brockmeyer	sbrockmeyer@scu.edu	Assistant Director of International Students & Scholars	Santa Clara University
Lauren	Albano	albanol@seattleu.edu	Assistant Director, DSO	Seattle University
Marie	Johnston	johnst37@seattleu.edu	Assistant Director, DSO	Seattle University
Miki	Sugimura	miki-s@sophia.ac.jp	Vice President for Global Academic Affairs	Sophia University
Queenie	He	q.he@thebeijingcenter.org	Associate Director of International Education	The Beijing Center
Veronika	Kotova	v.kotova@thebeijingcenter.org	Project Assistant	The Beijing Center
Huey Shi	Chew	hueyshi.chew@scranton.edu	Director Global Education	The University of Scranton
Mariella	Hernandez	hernandez_m@up.edu.pe	Director of International Relations	Universidad del Pacifico
Lara	Wasner	wasnerle@udmercy.edu	Director of Language & Cultural Studies, Study Abroad Coord.	University of Detroit Mercy
Marcella	Pitcher DeProto	mjdepoto@usfca.edu	ISSS Director	University of San Francisco
Kim	Diehl de Yanes	diehlk@xavier.edu	Director, CIE	Xavier University
Lea	Minniti	minnitil@xavier.edu	Senior International Officer, Executive Director	Xavier University

☐ = AJCU institution

☒ = Non-AJCU institution