Peer Facilitator --Center for International Education Module

Office Name

Center for International Education (CIE)

Office Location and Hours

207 Calhoun St
Multicultural Center
Monday-Friday
8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Contact Information

Website: http://international.cofc.edu/
E-mail: studyabroad@cofc.edu
Phone: 843-953-7661

Ideal Time for Delivery

Fall Semester: Early-September
Spring Semester: Early February

How to Schedule an Appointment

All study abroad students are asked to attend a group advising session that introduces the different types of programs offered by the College: Faculty-Led, Exchange, and Affiliate. These sessions are held weekly in the Multicultural Center and students can reserve a spot through Appointment Manager via MyCharleston Academic Services tab. Below are the different advising sessions that students can attend. Once a student attends an advising session, they are free to apply to a particular program, or they may schedule a follow-up appointment with the appropriate CIE advisor (also can be scheduled via Appointment Manager).

Abroad 101: For those students interested in CofC Faculty-Led programs or who are undecided as to which type of program they’d like. This session offers a general overview of the program selection and application process.
Exchange Programs: Mandatory for those students interested in one of the many Exchange programs offered by CofC

Affiliate Programs: Mandatory for those students interested in Affiliate programs or any other program not provided by the College of Charleston (CofC programs or Exchange)

For days and times of group advising sessions, visit the CIE website.

Mission

The Center for International Education (CIE) develops, coordinates and implements programs and services to assist students to study abroad; facilitates international student recruitment and exchanges with international partner institutions; assists international students and faculty with immigration issues; advises international students on academic and enrollment matters including cultural adjustment, and serves as the main point of contact for international study.

The CIE:

- Works with faculty members and departments to develop study abroad programs
- Collaborates with the Office of Admissions on international student recruitment, coordinates international student enrollment and provides services for international students and faculty
- Works with schools and departments to identify and develop educational linkages with international partners in concert with the College’s goals and priorities
- Pursues and supports initiatives in support of the College’s internationalization goals
- Serves as the general resource for all international matters

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Locate the CIE on campus
2. Understand the different types of programs and the distinguishing factors (please see attached information table)
3. Make a profile and search for programs in the CIE’s online application system, Abroad Office: [http://cofc.abroadoffice.net/index.html](http://cofc.abroadoffice.net/index.html)
4. Understand how to incorporate study abroad into their 4-year academic plan
5. List the various financial resources available to help students cover the cost of studying abroad

**How to Achieve These Outcomes**

1. Show students online via the campus map where the CIE is physically located. Landmarks are particularly helpful to first-year students (beyond the library, yellow building at corner of Pitt and Calhoun)
2. Pull up the CIE website and click around on the various program type webpages. Use the table provided to inform students of the different program types (CofC, Exchange and Affiliate). Show the below videos from different programs.
   a. CofC Cuba semester program: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbnELeX8c0Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbnELeX8c0Y)
   b. CofC Summer program: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VkdABXQ2iw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VkdABXQ2iw)
   c. University of Groningen: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdWh17v3XfM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdWh17v3XfM)
   d. IES Abroad: [https://www.youtube.com/user/IESAbroad](https://www.youtube.com/user/IESAbroad)
3. Pull up AbroadOffice and show the students how to create an account. Use the interactive map to search for programs by clicking on a country. Also show the students the advanced search feature (on the left-hand navigation) by asking the class if anybody has a specific study abroad location in mind. Fill in the country, city, term and major to see what programs are available. *Please note: the further into future terms you search, the less programs that will be posted at that time. They will be posted as details become available.
4. Tell students it’s important to start thinking about study abroad early on in their college career. Students should discuss their intent to study abroad with their academic advisor as soon as possible. This will allow them to decide what type of classes they should take abroad and how to fit study abroad into their academic plan. If students aren’t able to study abroad for a semester, discuss the option of summer programs and show the various options available on the website.
5. Go to the Financing Study Abroad section of our webpage and explain that all financial aid can be taken on CofC and Exchange programs and portable aid can be taken on affiliate programs. Discuss scholarship opportunities by showing students the scholarship page on our website and referring to the Scholarships and Financing abroad pamphlet. Emphasize the CIE scholarship. Many affiliate programs offer their own scholarships. Students should also check with their major and minor departments for scholarship funds.
“Quick Tips” when talking with students about study abroad related issues

DO:

- Direct students to the CIE webpage and encourage them to spend time looking through the various options
- Emphasize the importance of attending a group advising session and creating an account on AbroadOffice prior to making an appointment with a CIE advisor
- Emphasize that there are study abroad programs available for students of all different academic majors/minors and that study abroad is not just for language students
- Emphasize that there are programs for students with varying financial resources
- Students can go to non-English speaking countries and take courses in English
- Emphasize the academic benefits of studying abroad
- Share your experience if you studied abroad through CofC

DON'T:

- Answer questions you do not know the answer to, instead, direct students to the CIE
- Emphasize how the type of program you participated in is the best – instead discuss that students should work with CIE to select a program based on their academic, financial and personal goals (i.e. not what their friend, girl/boyfriend, parent thinks is best)

Process for Requesting a Guest Speaker from CIE

To request a CIE guest speaker, please submit the CIE’s Presentation Request Form: https://cofcinternational.wufoo.com/forms/m7x3z9/ and one of our trained Peer Advisors or a member of our office will contact you within 3-5 business days. We ask that all requests are made at least two weeks prior to your synthesis seminar. You are welcome to come by the CIE to pick up pamphlets for the students regarding Financial Aid and Study Abroad or to ask questions.