

**CRITERIA FOR APPROVING
OVERSEAS APPROVED PROGRAMS**
Skidmore College
Advisory Committee on International Study

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- As programs that have been developed and vetted by Skidmore faculty and administration and that are closely linked to our current curriculum and mission, Skidmore programs overseas are considered a priority. With that in mind, they will be treated as such throughout the approval process. Partner programs should complement, not compete with, our own Skidmore programs overseas. Partner programs located in the same geographical areas as Skidmore programs overseas should be considered only if there is a compelling academic reason to do so.
- Partner programs should enhance the Skidmore curriculum and complement the offerings on campus in specific disciplines.
- A partner program should be of an academic level comparable to that found at Skidmore, as well as have educational objectives that complement and correspond to Skidmore's objectives.
- A diversity of program models should be utilized in order to enable students to select based on their developmental and intellectual readiness.
- Diversity in geographic distribution of the overall portfolio should be considered when approving new partner programs.
- Cultural immersion should be incorporated as much as possible while keeping in mind the educational goals of the overseas program. Cultural immersion includes class attendance with nationals, home stays, residence halls with nationals, community service projects, field work, and language study. We should avoid "academic tourism." In some cases the academic value and other related attributes of the program may offset a weaker cultural immersion element.
- Although financial considerations should not be the deciding factor when approving programs, the cost of the partner program should play a role in final approval.
- While student demand may be considered in approving a new partner program, it is only one of several considerations. We must be careful not to be reactive to student desires and instead place a strong emphasis on curricular enhancement issues.
- Not every guideline/criterion need be present for the partner program to be approved. However, the greater the number of criteria, the stronger the program.

GENERAL CRITERIA

1. The program provider will usually be a non-profit, academic organization.
2. The partner program provides instruction at an accredited non-US university or language institute or in venues approved by Skidmore faculty.
3. Courses will usually be taught by predominantly non-US faculty.
4. The program will be able to demonstrate the academic rigor of its course offerings.

5. When possible housing should be provided through integrated accommodations such as international residence halls or home stays.
6. The partner program's administrative structure must be sound and must sufficiently support our students before, during and after their time abroad. This includes ready access to stateside and overseas staff that are well-versed in the issues of international education and are able to provide needed resources and assistance in all situations. Priority should be given to programs where an on-site director is present.
7. The partner program should have in place a systematic approach to safety and health concerns.
8. Both the program site and program provider should show evidence of a sound financial structure.
9. All new partner programs should be granted provisional status before final approval is given. This allows ACIS to evaluate a program through actual participation.

SPECIFIC CRITERIA FOR REVIEWING PROPOSALS

1. New proposals are endorsed by an academic department/program and the Office of International Programs. Proposals are presented to the ACIS by OIP and the department chair or program director.
2. Responsibility for vetting the academic integrity of the partner program rests with the department/program. OIP will support this effort by documenting the program's academic integrity and will serve as the liaison between the program provider and the department/program.
3. Responsibility for investigating and documenting the administrative and financial integrity of the partner program rests with OIP.
4. Proposals should outline specific curriculum matches that would allow students to satisfy major/minor requirements. The proposal should include a list of potential courses and their equivalencies in order to allow the academic content of the overseas program to be properly considered.
5. New proposals should include the following:
 - a. Cover sheet with signatures from the department chair or program director and the director of OIP.
 - b. Rationale for proposing the partner program in the specific department/program, including connections to the curriculum. The rationale should outline the reasons for choosing this specific program, any details about the program provider that make it a particularly good partner for Skidmore, and any additional information that the ACIS should know in order to make a decision.
 - c. Program information, including brochures, information on the program provider, course lists, course descriptions, lists of on-site faculty and staff, CVs of on-site faculty and staff, descriptions regarding on-site facilities, past enrollments of Skidmore students and past relationship to Skidmore and/or the specific department/program, list of other "partner" US schools, and pricing information.