

Proposal to Standardize Offering UA University Credit for UA Study Abroad Programs

Submitted by UA Global

Definitions

University credit is the term used to identify all credit offered by the University of Arizona with the exception of Special Examination for Credit. Only the grades of courses taken for University credit and by Special Examination for Grade are used in calculating the grade-point-average (GPA).

<https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/credit-definitions>

Exchange Program. Program where students study abroad at one of UA's partner institutions, pay tuition at UA, and apply UA financial aid. (See Appendix A for further information)

Arizona Abroad Location. Partnership programs where students take UA courses offered on the partner's campus or online, courses offered by the partner, or a combination thereof. Students can apply UA financial aid. (See Appendix A for further information.)

Faculty-led or Customized Program. Programs that are developed by a UA academic department where the department has curricular oversight of the courses offered. Students can apply UA financial aid. (See Appendix A for further information.)

Proposed Policy Changes

Departments are permitted to offer UA University Credit for coursework completed on UA Approved Study Abroad Programs including faculty-led/customized programs, exchange programs, and Arizona Abroad Locations where some or all of the courses are taught by local faculty. [This is simply a statement of existing practice]. Departments/Colleges currently offering UA University Credit for study abroad courses taught by non-UA/partner faculty include Communication, The School of Government and Public Policy, Russian and Slavic Studies, Spanish & Portuguese, French and Italian, The School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies, Latin American Studies, English, Critical Languages, Public Health, Geography, and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

UA Study Abroad proposes to standardize this process to ensure quality and consistency. In order to do so, we propose the following language changes to existing UA policy:

- Proposed language change to *Units in Residence – University Credit Requirement*: A minimum of 30 units of University Credit taken in residence (a student's home campus) from The University of Arizona is required for the bachelor's degree. It is further required that 18 of the final 30 units offered toward the degree be University Credit.
- Proposed language change to *Acceptability of Undergraduate Transfer Credit*: The evaluation of course work completed at another institution or exam credit from an approved organization will be based only on an official transcript from the offering institution or organization. Preapproved coursework completed on UA Approved Study Abroad Programs will not be considered transfer credit under this policy and will be awarded UA University Credit.
- Proposed language addition to *Graduation Grade Averages and Credit Requirements*: UA Credit earned on UA Approved Study Abroad Programs will be graded and calculated into a student's GPA.

UA University Credit for Undergraduate Study Abroad Course Work: Standard Policies and Procedures

1. With departmental approval, UA Study Abroad will run a pilot program to be reevaluated after 4 years where study abroad courses will be pre-articulated and given UA direct course equivalents.
2. Students accepted into a UA Approved Study Abroad Program will be registered in Study Abroad sections of UA courses that have been pre-articulated. (See Appendix B for more information)
3. UA Study Abroad will facilitate the collection of materials necessary for departments to determine UA direct equivalencies (e.g. instructor CVs, accreditation information for each institution, instructor qualifications (Ph.D., MA, etc. in a relevant discipline), course syllabi, credit hours).
4. Transfer Credit & Articulation will route course syllabi to appropriate faculty using workflow technology for evaluation to UA direct credit.
5. Coursework taken on UA approved study abroad programs will appear on students' UA transcripts as University Credit, regardless of the grade, with a notation that the credit was earned at a partner institution. Grades will calculate into the students' term and cumulative GPA. (See Appendix B for further information)
6. Courses for UA Credit cannot be taken on a pass/fail basis. Students may file for a GRO for a course taken abroad if a direct equivalent is available on campus. Students may not take courses abroad for a grade replacement of a course taken on main campus. Student may not petition UA Study Abroad direct credit coursework.

Rationale

- Studying abroad should be an accessible part of a student's UA experience. Standardizing the way UA Credit is offered for UA Approved Study Abroad Programs by pre-articulating partner courses will help students understand how study abroad fits into their degree programs and will enable students to take advantage of their full financial aid package during the semester to study abroad. (See Appendix C for more information on "Academic Fit")
- Awarding students graded credit ensures that students' will be appropriately academically focused during their time abroad and will be rewarded for their achievements.
- In order to meet the UA Strategic Plan Pillar 4 goal of being the leader in study abroad, UA must adjust our policies to be in line with peer institutions already awarding resident (University) credit to their students participating in study abroad.
- See Appendix D for information on partner selection and program evaluation.

Study Abroad Leading Institutions

The practice of awarding University Credit for study abroad is aligned with the policies of the following leading study abroad institutions that are University of Arizona ABOR peers: University of Arizona ABOR peers University of Texas, Ohio State University, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, and University of Wisconsin-Madison have similar policies allowing them to award resident (University) credit to their students who participate in Study Abroad Programs. (See Appendix E for more information on institutions offering resident credit for study abroad and for language related to similar policies at these institutions.)

(See Appendix F for responses to Undergraduate Council Member's Feedback on the Proposal to Accept International Transfer Courses from UA Study Abroad Partner Institutions as University Credit.)

Appendix A

Definitions

Exchange Programs are student mobility relationships with partner institutions based on the concept of reciprocity (one student in, one student out). Currently, students on exchange programs receive transfer credit that does not contribute to their GPA. An International Memorandum of Agreement (IMOA) must be signed by the University of Arizona and the Partner Institution to establish this type of relationship. Partner Institutions must have appropriate accreditation. The IMOA formalizes the terms of collaboration between the UA and one or more partner institutions. Students pay UA tuition.

AZ Abroad Locations are high-volume study abroad destinations located on the campus of a partner institution. Some of these partner institutions are also micro-campus partners. The UA is significantly involved with the program components, specifically academics. In conjunction with the partners, a high level of student support is provided on-site. Students can take a variety of courses including partner institution courses, courses taught by local faculty on behalf of academic departments at UA, UA courses taught on-site by UA faculty, i-courses, or micro-campus courses where available. Currently, transfer credit is earned for partner courses and UA credit is earned for the other types of courses. Students pay UA tuition.

Faculty-led or Customized Study Abroad Programs are programs where students take UA courses abroad taught by a qualified UA employee or by qualified local faculty at a partner institution/organization. The credit earned with this type of program is UA credit. As of AY 19-20, students pay UA tuition and a program fee.

Appendix B

Policies and Procedures: Additional Details

- A list of approved equivalents will be maintained by UA Study Abroad and displayed on the UA Study Abroad website.
- If courses have multiple equivalents (cross-listed), students should choose the equivalent most appropriate for their degree requirements.
- Academic advisors should be consulted during the student's course selection process similarly to when students are choosing courses to take on main campus.
- UA Study Abroad is working with the Registrar to determine how courses that do have a direct equivalency will be posted.
- Students will be awarded grades in UAccess once the UA has received a transcript from the partner institution.
- Courses that have not been pre-articulated will be issued transfer credit upon receipt of the official transcript from the Partner
- UA Study Abroad is committed to working with the Registrar and UITS on an ongoing basis to establish best practices for course creation, student enrollment, tracking, and transcript notations.

Appendix C Rationale

Currently, the UA issues transfer credit for most semester long UA Approved Study Abroad Programs. It is difficult for students to understand if and how courses taken for transfer credit at a partner institution will apply toward their degree requirements. This encourages students to seek summer study abroad opportunities which are financially inaccessible to many students. Academic fit is a large barrier to study abroad, and by making courses UA credit students will better understand how study abroad can fit into their degree programs. In addition, offering pre-articulated UA Credit will ensure consistency in articulation evaluations for all students, therein making this option more attractive to students looking to satisfy specific degree requirements.

See excerpts below about barriers to study abroad. Sentences have been underlined to add emphasis.

Excerpt from “Effective Advising for Study Abroad” retrieved from:
<https://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Resources/Academic-Advising-Today/View-Articles/Effective-Advising-for-Study-Abroad.aspx>

Myths and Barriers: The 'Five Fs'

Survey data at the University of Minnesota (2005) continues to confirm that students face five barriers, five Fs, when deciding whether to study abroad:

- Finances
- Academic Fit
- Faculty and Adviser Support
- Fear
- Friends & Family

Advisers can assist students by addressing the five F's and devising solutions.

- Financing study abroad may involve collaboration between the academic adviser, the study abroad center, and financial aid office. Students who plan ahead are more successful in financing an international experience.
- Advisers can prepare detailed pre-departure plans that include course evaluations, graduation maps, and career planning. At the University of Minnesota, students are required to meet with their collegiate, departmental, and study abroad advisers prior to departure. All classes are evaluated and the equivalencies are listed on the Academic Planning for Study Abroad (APSA) form. Knowing how the credits will apply to the academic plan helps to address student and parental concerns.

Appendix C (Continued)

Rationale

Excerpt from “How to Overcome Institutional Barriers to Study Abroad” published by 100,000 Strong in the Americas retrieved from: <http://www.100kstrongamericas.org/how-to-overcome-institutional-barriers-to-study-abroad/>

“Many HEIs have struggled to generate adequate student interest in study abroad programs, especially in groups of non-traditional students. This issue is directly related to addressing certain student barriers to study abroad, such as cost and curricular demands. By creating programs that apply directly towards graduation requirements HEIs have the ability to appeal to a diverse population of students.”

Excerpt from “Exploring Factors that lead to Participation in Study Abroad” by Lisa Loberg, 2012 retrieved from:

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/c4e5/50d2551d3252011c6db0c8ed184e643c9c69.pdf>

“What also became clear in further analyzing the findings was that study abroad was indeed part of the culture at successful institutions in particular. Study abroad experiences at successful institutions were seen not as extra-curricular activities but as prominent features of the institution’s academic offerings. While this area of the findings warrants further study, analysis of the participant responses suggests that study abroad can eventually become a part of the institutional culture if it is made visible how an international experience connects to and complements the student’s major. To give an example of this visible link, study abroad professionals described departments with pre-approved coursework as having removed the obstacles for students, making it more likely for students from those disciplines to participate.”

Appendix D

Partnerships and Evaluation

Criteria for Partner Selection

Potential partnerships must go through a vetting process where the potential partner's accreditation is confirmed and they must pass a Health, Safety, and Security review. Criteria for selecting partners includes geographic location (in line with student mobility trends and/or departmental interests), previous collaboration with proposed partner institution, breadth or academic offerings with English as the language of instruction, partner ability to provide comprehensive student support services, stated or potential support from colleges, departments, and affordability.

Selected Study Abroad Partner Institution: UNIVERSITAT ROVIRA I VIRGILI is an accredited, public university that was founded in 1992. It has approximately 12,000 students across six campuses and offers 52 programs of study. URV is a comprehensive, research intensive and globally linked university. The number of publications per permanent member of teaching staff is the fourth highest in Spain. It has been recognized as a Campus of International Excellence by the Spanish Ministry of Education.

Criteria for Faculty Selection and Course Approval (in the event where departments work with non-UA faculty to teach courses for which UA Credit is offered.)

For faculty-led/customized programs, academic departments evaluate the CV of potential local instructors to ensure they meet the qualifications needed to teach each course. Departments also evaluate course syllabi to ensure that learning objectives and assignments are sufficient for each course for which the department issues credit. Departments that engage in this practice do so for a variety of reasons, but one is to make sure that study abroad programs are financially accessible, since sending faculty abroad for long periods is quite costly. It is also difficult for some departments to send faculty members abroad due to teaching obligations on main campus.

Evaluation

There is a continuous assessment of partnerships to assure quality programming. We ask students to formally evaluate their study abroad programs at the end of each term by completing a survey in Qualtrics. UA Study Abroad is in continuous contact with our partners and we evaluate partnerships every year based on criteria such as student satisfaction, quality of partner communication, partner's delivery of student services, mobility, availability of partner course offerings, and other academic relationships with the partner such as research or dual degree programs. Pre-articulated courses will be evaluated by academic departments every three to five years. Similarly, in-person site evaluations are conducted every 3-5 years.

Appendix E

Leading Study Abroad Institutions and Policies Related to Credit for Study Abroad

Institution	16-17 Study Abroad Students	Resident Credit for Exchange Program	Calculate into GPA	HLC Accredited	Open Doors 2018 Rankings
New York University	4,436	NO	NO	NO	1
Texas A&M University, College Station	3,848	NO	NO	NO	2
University of Michigan- Ann Arbor	3,214	YES	YES	YES	3
University of Texas- Austin	3,129	YES	YES	NO	4
San Diego State University	3,039	YES	Varies	NO	5
Indiana University – Bloomington	2,839	YES	YES	YES	6
Ohio State University- Columbus	2,712	YES	YES	YES	7
Michigan State University	2,667	YES	YES	YES	8
University of Minnesota- Twin Cities	2,576	YES	YES	YES	9
Arizona State University	2,414	YES	YES	YES	10
University of Wisconsin- Madison	2,276	YES	YES	YES	16

Appendix E (Continued)
Leading Study Abroad Institutions and Policies Related to Credit for Study Abroad

Sentences have been underlined to add emphasis to policy language.

University of Michigan <https://global.umich.edu/education-abroad/study-abroad/>

Retrieved from <https://internationalcenter.umich.edu/abroad/swt/study/academic-credit>

There are many opportunities for students that are looking to study abroad and would like to receive academic credit. The process for obtaining credit varies depending on whether or not the student goes through a U-M study abroad program or a program not affiliated with the University of Michigan.

U-M Study Abroad Programs: In- Residence Credit

UM Study abroad programs are programs administered and supported by the University of Michigan. With some exceptions, these programs allow students to obtain in-residence credit (rather than transfer credit) and maintain any type of scholarship or financial aid that currently applies.

University of Texas- Austin

<https://global.utexas.edu/abroad>

Retrieved from <https://world.utexas.edu/abroad/apply/after/credit>

Reciprocal Exchange Grades: Credit from exchange programs are posted by the Office of the Registrar to the official UT transcript. Courses and grades will appear. Grades compute into the official GPA. Transcripts from exchange universities are received by the Program Coordinator. The SAO, under authorization from the Provost, transcribes the grades from the foreign grading system to the UT letter grade system for each course taken abroad. Students must take all courses abroad for a letter grade. However, students wishing to take a course pass/fail must inform his/her Program Coordinator in writing by the date marking 60% of course completion following the start of the academic session (course start date) in the host country. The numbers of pass/fail courses allowed per semester or per degree are set by the student's college or school.

Appendix E (Continued)
Leading Study Abroad Institutions and Policies Related to Credit for Study Abroad

San Diego State University

http://go.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/isc/studyabroad.aspx

Retrieved from http://go.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/studyabroad/creditsandgrades.aspx

Resident credits are those that result from paying SDSU tuition. Resident credit applies to your residency requirement at SDSU. Even though these units were taken abroad, the following types of programs typically award resident credit.

- SDSU Exchange
- ISEP Exchange
- CSU-IP
- SDSU faculty-led programs

Indiana University

<https://overseas.iu.edu/>

Retrieved from <https://overseas.iu.edu/programs/iu/index.html>

IU PROGRAMS

Programs found in the sections below are fully-supported by Indiana University and provide a number of benefits to IU students. By participating on an IU program, students will:

- Earn direct IU credit for coursework completed abroad
- Receive grades that factor into their cumulative IU GPA
- Pay for program fees through the IU Bursar
- Continue to receive most forms of financial aid
- Have access to comprehensive advising throughout the study abroad process

Appendix E (Continued)
Leading Study Abroad Institutions and Policies Related to Credit for Study Abroad

The Office of Overseas Study provides a wide range of study abroad opportunities from year-long language & cultural immersion programs to short-term thematic programs. Our programs fall within two types: IU-Administered and Co-Sponsored (programs administered by an organization or institution with which IU partners). See the chart below for important distinctions between these two program types.

IU-Administered	Co-Sponsored
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IU administers program onsite• IU organizes program housing and activities• Different program fees charged for Indiana residents and non-residents• Most forms of financial aid apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-sponsor administers program onsite• Co-sponsor organizes program housing and activities• Co-sponsor's program fee charged to all students• See financial aid exceptions

The Ohio State University

<https://educationabroad.osu.edu/>

Retrieved from <https://oia.osu.edu/preparing-to-depart/academics.html>

The classes you take while studying abroad will count for graded Ohio State credit and be factored into your GPA.

Once your credit evaluations and transcript are submitted to Tony Valle, it may take up to a week for the credit to appear on your record. When the graded credit is posted, it will appear under the Transfer Credit tab of the Study Information System <https://oia.osu.edu/preparing-to-depart/academics/credit-evaluation.html>

Appendix E (Continued)

Leading Study Abroad Institutions and Policies Related to Credit for Study Abroad

Michigan State University

<https://educationabroad.isp.msu.edu/>

Retrieved from <https://educationabroad.isp.msu.edu/faculty-and-advisers/academic-advisers/course-approval-and-credit-transfer/>

Credit transfer and grade/credit conversion

After students have been accepted into a study abroad program, they will need to work with their academic advisor and/or the appropriate college contact for study abroad course approvals. Depending on the subject area of the course taken abroad, a student's credit will come back in one of the following two ways:

- Graded credit (counts toward your MSU GPA)
- Transfer credit (pass/fail basis and does NOT count toward your MSU GPA)

University of Minnesota

<https://umabroad.umn.edu/>

Retrieved from <https://umabroad.umn.edu/students/academics/credit/resident-credit>

Resident Credit

Resident credit is offered for most programs on the Learning Abroad Center website and in the catalog. Upon credit posting, individual coursework completed abroad appears on your UofM transcript along with letter grades and credit totals for each class. Grades received in these classes are calculated into your University GPA. Petitioning for credit is not necessary with resident credit, however, you'll need to work with your academic adviser if you plan to fulfill major or minor requirements. For Liberal Education requirement fulfillment see the U-Credit Abroad database.

Conversation on 3/29/19 with Christine Anderson, Academic Director University of Minnesota Learning Abroad Center.

All programs that offer resident credit are evaluated by campus stakeholders to ensure academic quality. For affiliate programs, a portfolio of partner syllabi, instructor CVs, and other items are evaluated to ensure academic rigor and instructor qualifications. For exchange partners, the IMOA approval process is followed and ensures that partner institutions have the appropriate accreditations in their home country.

Appendix E (Continued)
Leading Study Abroad Institutions and Policies Related to Credit for Study Abroad

Arizona State University

<https://mystudyabroad.asu.edu/>

Retrieved from https://catalog.asu.edu/course_classification

Courses with the prefix SAO are reserved for participants in partnership and exchange study abroad programs through the Study Abroad Office. Such a course is a placeholder that remains on the student's academic record until the student's record is updated by the Study Abroad Office following the completion of the student's study abroad program. The SAO-prefixed course will be dropped from the student's record and replaced with the ASU courses, credits and grades equivalent to the coursework completed abroad. Students must register for at least the number of credit hours equivalent to full-time study at ASU (i.e., 12 credits for undergraduate students and nine credits for graduate students during the fall and spring semesters, or one to six credit hours during the summer session). Students participating in an SAO partnership program must register for the subtopic "SAO: Study Abroad Program" whereas participants in an SAO exchange program must register for the subtopic "SAO: Exchange Program". The SAO placeholder course is not an indication of the level of coursework or the total number of credit hours the student may complete abroad

Appendix E (Continued)
Leading Study Abroad Institutions and Policies Related to Credit for Study Abroad

University of Wisconsin-Madison

<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/>

Retrieved from <https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/handbook/handbook-academics/>

You will receive UW-Madison in-residence credit for all course work completed on a UW-Madison study abroad program. UW-Madison departmental course numbers and titles (course equivalents) are recorded on your official UW-Madison transcript, and grades earned are calculated in your UW-Madison cumulative grade point average.

Conversation on 3/13/19 with Matthew Geisler, Associate Director for New Programs and Enrollment, International Academic Programs

Study Abroad works with departments prior to the student going abroad to articulate the courses into resident credit. There is a designated contact in every department/major that is authorized to determine equivalencies (sometime a faculty member, sometimes an academic advisor). Students chose courses in their application from a list of courses that have been pre-assigned resident credit. If a course that the student wants to take is not on the list, the study abroad office works with their departmental contact to articulate the course into resident credit. Once a course is approved and the transcript/grade record is received, Study Abroad works with the registrar to update the student record with the appropriate courses and grades. If a course appears that has not been preapproved in the transcript, they go through the approval process when the transcript/grade record is received.

Appendix F
UA Study Abroad Responses to Undergraduate Council Member’s Feedback on the Proposal to Accept International Transfer Courses from UA Study Abroad Partner Institutions as University Credit

Summary of concerns, suggestions, and questions for UA Global:

- 1) The time required from faculty to evaluate (i.e., determine UA equivalencies) for multiple courses from 20 partner institutions, every 3 – 5 years, is substantial. This is extra work for faculty beyond evaluating current transfer course work that is mainly “department elective credit.” A timeline might be helpful for departments, along with UA Global’s compensation for this labor-intensive work. It is suggested that UA Global start with 5 partner institutions, then increase the number as the faculty becomes more comfortable with the process.
 - a. **Currently, faculty evaluating transfer courses are doing evaluations more specifically geared towards direct equivalencies. Departmental Elective Credit and general Elective Credit courses are typically done centrally (based off faculty evaluation guidelines), for out of state and international courses within Transfer Credit & Articulation. This process helps reduce evaluation load for faculty. Global has funded international articulation staff to build equivalency rules and route syllabi to faculty for evaluation, ensuring appropriate content is acquired before routing materials.**
 - b. **UA Study Abroad will pilot the proposed plan over a 4-year period, after which the policies and procedures will be reviewed to ensure efficiency and any necessary changes will be made. In addition, we will work with departments to prioritize which programs/partners for which they would like to pre-articulate courses ensuring that workload remains manageable.**
 - c. **Currently, course reevaluations occur at the request of the faculty evaluator. Transfer Credit & Articulation works with faculty to set reevaluation timelines.**

Appendix F (Continued)
UA Study Abroad Responses to Undergraduate Council Member's Feedback on the Proposal to Accept International Transfer Courses from UA Study Abroad Partner Institutions as University Credit

2) Likewise, academic advisors are concerned about the increased workload during student appointments: differentiating one kind of transfer credit from another, deciding how the transfer courses (University Credit vs. regular transfer credit) will apply to UA degree requirements, etc. Although procedures aren't part of the policy that needs faculty approval, the implementation process should be spelled out in the proposal so that faculty and advisors know what to expect.

- a. **UA direct credit will be treated as normal UA credit, and transfer credit will look the same as it currently does. This isn't any different from the job Advisors do now. In fact, articulating credit in advance will be more helpful to Academic Advisors. Prior to 2019, all international transfer credit was applied to student accounts by International Admissions as general elective credit (and Academic Advisors applied credit to degree requirements), which was much more problematic than this process proposes. We have consulted with advisors and staff across campus in departments that send large numbers of students abroad and they feel that this procedure will greatly simplify their work.**

UA Study Abroad will maintain records of which programs we are offering UA credit on and for what courses. This information will be consistently updated and posted in a special Advisor section on the UA Global website. In addition, Transfer Credit and Articulation maintains a database with international equivalency information. We will work with the advising community and Transfer Credit and Articulation to make sure that advisors have all the information they need.

3) If the courses to be transferred as University Credit were all evaluated/approved in advance, this would be a big help to faculty and advisors upon the students return to the UA.

- a. **It is our intention to route all courses through Transfer Credit & Articulation months in advance so they can route course evaluation requests to faculty in a way that won't be overwhelming to their current load.**

Appendix F (Continued)

UA Study Abroad Responses to Undergraduate Council Member's Feedback on the Proposal to Accept International Transfer Courses from UA Study Abroad Partner Institutions as University Credit

- 4) Another big concern centers around the UA's policy that only 30 University Credits are needed to earn a UA degree. The proposed policy opens the possibility that all 30 units of University Credit could be earned at other institutions, which raised the question: what does it mean to have a UA degree: 30 University Credits, 30 units taught by UA faculty, or some mix of the two? UA Global should set some boundaries, such as a 15-unit maximum of transfer University Credit. If there's a 30-unit maximum (as UA Global requests), it should be specified that the student's final semester must include at least 15 units of course work from UA faculty (see the UW-Madison COE stipulation that students cannot complete their degree with courses from a partner institution).
 - a. **After consultation with Academic Affairs, we propose that all students must spend one year "in residence" (taking courses on their home campus from UA faculty/instructors).**
- 5) To help UGC understand what's meant by a "designated partner institution," examples should be provided in the proposal, along with the approval criteria and review process. A sampling of courses to be evaluated as University Credit would also be helpful. In other words, the proposal should specify how the Study Abroad partner institutions are selected, who will evaluate them, and how frequently. More transparency on these processes is needed.
 - a. **The University of Arizona only partners with trusted Partner Institutions that exemplify the high-quality education that UA students should receive. Potential partnerships must go through a vetting process where their accreditation is confirmed and they must pass a Health, Safety, and Security review. Criteria for selecting partners include geographic location (in line with student mobility trends and/or departmental interests), previous collaboration with proposed partner instruction, breadth or academic offerings with English as the language of instruction, partner ability to provide comprehensive student support services, stated or potential support from colleges, departments, and affordability.**
 - b. **University practice is to sign agreements for a period of three to five years, renewable with both sides' consent and after evaluating the partnership. This provides a regular occasion for those involved from both institutions to discuss the mutual value of the agreement. Shorter or longer periods in which an agreement will be in force can be requested when appropriate.**

Appendix F (Continued)
UA Study Abroad Responses to Undergraduate Council Member's Feedback on the Proposal to Accept International Transfer Courses from UA Study Abroad Partner Institutions as University Credit

- 6) What impact will the proposal have on the Transfer Articulation Office, the Registrar's Office, and UITS, which has to make system adjustments in order to provide proper notations on student transcripts? These offices need to be included in ironing out the proposal details.
- a. **UA Study Abroad has been meeting with the Registrar and we are working together to create an efficient student-centered process. We are in the process of jointly creating a list of action items and suggested processes. UA Study Abroad is committed to working with the Registrar and UITS on an ongoing basis to establish best practices for course creation, student enrollment, tracking, and transcript notations.**
- 7) Clarification is needed to differentiate the credit earned from UA student-exchange programs, micro-campuses, and study-abroad programs at partner institutions. Which offers University Credit vs. transfer credit? How is University Credit justified for one or two of these but not others?
- a. **Micro-campuses are separate from study abroad programs. There are three main types of study abroad programs run through UA Global and we would like to give UA credit for all of these types of programs, but will start out with a pilot project with a smaller number of programs and will evaluate at the end of three years.**
 - i. **Student exchanges are student mobility relationships with partner institutions based on the concept of reciprocity (one student in, one student out). Currently, students on exchange programs receive transfer credit that does not contribute to their GPA.**
 - ii. **Faculty-led study abroad programs are programs where students take UA courses abroad taught either by UA faculty or non-UA faculty who academic departments contract with to teach courses. The credit earned with this type of program is UA credit.**
 - iii. **AZ Abroad Locations are high-volume study abroad destinations located on the campus of a partner institution. Some of these partner institutions are also micro-campus partners. Students can take a variety of courses including partner institution courses, courses taught by local faculty on behalf of academic departments at UA, UA courses taught on-site by UA faculty, or micro-campus courses where available. Currently, transfer credit is earned for partner courses and UA credit is earned for the other types of courses.**

Appendix F (Continued)
UA Study Abroad Responses to Undergraduate Council Member's Feedback on the Proposal to Accept International Transfer Courses from UA Study Abroad Partner Institutions as University Credit

- 8) The proposal should address whether the students earning University Credit from study abroad partner institutions could file (when back on Main Campus) grade appeals, GRO requests, or retroactive withdrawal petitions.
- a. Students will not be able to file grade appeals and cannot file retroactive withdrawal appeals. For courses that have direct UA equivalencies, students can take the course again at their home campus (main campus) if they desire a GRO. Students cannot take courses abroad for a GRO for courses first taken on main campus. Courses cannot be taken for Pass/Fail.**
- 9) Could a study abroad student at a non-partner institution petition the UA to award University Credit for the course work? If this proposal is approved, students bringing transfer work from other study abroad programs and domestic institutions will request University Credit/grades. When students are allowed to petition a policy, that's a burden on the General Petition Committee. UGC should consider making the policy non-petition-able.
- a. It is non-petition-able in the revised proposal. We will list out exactly which partner institutions that are eligible for UA credit (UA Sponsored Study Abroad Programs).**
- 10) If there's a cap on the number of University Credits to be accepted (e.g., 15 units), but students exceed the cap in the first semester (e.g., 18 units), could students decide which ones would count (e.g., only those with high grades, only those that meet major requirements)? This needs to be addressed even if there's a 30-unit cap.
- a. This is addressed by the requirement that students spend at least one year in residence (on home campus).**

Appendix F (Continued)
UA Study Abroad Responses to Undergraduate Council Member's Feedback on the Proposal to Accept International Transfer Courses from UA Study Abroad Partner Institutions as University Credit

- 11) Has UA Global surveyed students to find out the actual obstacles to studying abroad: expense or need for grades to improve GPA? If it's primarily the expense, and students don't care about grades, this proposal could be simplified.
- a. **Both must be addressed. Research has shown that finances are not the only barrier. Academic fit is a large barrier to study abroad, and by making courses UA credit students will better understand how their study abroad can fit into their degree programs.**
 - b. **We would like more student to study abroad in the semester when they can have more immersive experiences. Most semester programs are currently transfer credit programs, so this discourages students from engaging in these high impact experiences.**
 - c. **Granting resident credit will ensure consistency in articulation evaluations for all students, therein making this option more attractive to students looking to satisfy specific degree requirements.**
- 12) If students pay UA tuition to take courses at the partner institution, will UA college deans see any RCM benefit?
- a. **Yes, UA Global has restructured the way that Colleges are compensated for study abroad. In the past, colleges received no compensation for students on exchange programs and departments received a department fee for faculty-led programs. Arizona Abroad Locations are a new program model. Under the new structure, Colleges will be compensated similar to the RCM system.**
- 13) The proposal should include the student qualifications to participate in Study Abroad at a partner institution (e.g., minimum GPA, minimum number of earned UA credits).
- a. **Minimum GPA ranges between 2.0 and 3.0 depending on the partner institution. UA Global encourages freshman to wait until the summer after their freshman year to go abroad, but freshman can petition to go abroad the second semester of their freshman year. Partners may have additional requirements. These are listed in each specific program page on the UA Study Abroad website.**
- 14) The proposal should specify that courses for "pass/fail" are not allowed to transfer as University Credit.
- a. **Okay, noted in proposal.**

Appendix F (Continued)
**UA Study Abroad Responses to Undergraduate Council Member’s Feedback on the
Proposal to Accept International Transfer Courses from UA Study Abroad Partner
Institutions as University Credit**

15) UA “Special Topics” courses have unique themes within each department and shouldn’t be used as a “catch-all” transfer course title.

- a. **Yes, this is true. We are working with the Registrar to determine how to best award credit for courses with no direct equivalency at UA. The current suggestion is that we can create departmental study abroad courses. We are in the process of finding the most efficient way to do this and to make sure that advisors then know how these courses will apply to a student’s degree program.**

16) The proposal should begin with the University-wide policies, followed by specific college policies. For example, a college might limit the number of transfer “University Credits” from partner institutions that can apply to their majors.

- a. **We can note that students must contact their departments to understand how study abroad will apply toward their degree programs, but listing all policies will result in an excessively long proposal.**

17) The UW-Madison registration procedure—that students enroll for a “Study Away Course”—makes sense as a temporary placeholder for tuition purposes. This is already used at the UA. The placeholder is converted to specific course or department credit after the transcript arrives.

- a. **Yes, we are currently working with the Registrar to determine the best process in this area.**

18) A language or culture requirement should be specified (or at least encouraged to enhance the study abroad experience) so that students can engage with the culture in a more meaningful way.

- a. **Yes, we generally agree and can certainly encourage this. We are hesitant to make strict requirements since we don’t want to discourage students from studying abroad that may already have all their language requirements met or those that have very little flexibility in their degree programs (they won’t go abroad if they have to take courses that will not apply to their degree).**

Appendix F (Continued)
UA Study Abroad Responses to Undergraduate Council Member's Feedback on the Proposal to Accept International Transfer Courses from UA Study Abroad Partner Institutions as University Credit

19) It would appear that no thought has been given to the impact of the proposed program on the current study abroad offerings. This should be addressed.

- a. **To the contrary, we are attempting to gain explicit permission to do what we are doing with many language programs that are considered faculty-led. A number of these programs offer UA credit for courses taught by local faculty at the program site. This practice is being questioned and we want to make sure that departments can still do this as it is essential to the affordability and success of some of their most popular study abroad programs. It is not cost effective to send multiple faculty members to teach multiple levels of a language. It is much more cost effective to pay local instructors in the abroad location (who are vetted by and meet departmental requirements) to teach the courses since there are no per diem, lodging, or travel costs involved. These costs will be passed on to the students if multiple UA faculty have to teach, making some of our current faculty-lead programs unaffordable. This is particularly important for the small number of faculty-led programs that are semester long. It is cost prohibitive to send 2-3 faculty members abroad to teach courses and impacts that operations of the department on-campus if faculty are not present for a semester.**

Departments that currently do this are MENAS, Spanish and Portuguese, Russian Studies, French and Italian, SGPP, Latin American Studies, and Communication among others.

20) It is requested that links be added to the peer study-abroad programs listed in the proposal so that UGC members can get a better understanding of their credit transfer policies.

- a. **These are included in Appendix E of the Proposal.**