



## School of Nursing

*"We live in an interconnected, global world. Expanding the knowledge and lived experience of our students through study abroad is essential for addressing nursing and health care within Minnesota and beyond."* –**Connie White Delaney, Professor and Dean, School of Nursing**

### History of Curriculum Integration at the University of Minnesota

In the late 1990s, the University of Minnesota (UofM) began a pilot project to test new ways to integrate study abroad into the curriculum. It offered a model for interactions with other academic units. Meanwhile, the UofM leadership placed priority on providing international perspectives as part of the undergraduate experience. Past presidents Mark Yudof and Robert Bruininks enthusiastically supported study abroad as one way to integrate international perspectives into the curriculum. Over the last 20 years, undergraduate experience abroad participation has grown from 861 to over 3,000, and learning abroad as a percentage of degrees granted reached 35% in 2019.

### Career Integration

In 2012, the Learning Abroad Center (LAC) developed a campus-wide committee to apply the methodology of curriculum integration to a specific focus on career planning. Once again, the LAC partnered with campus colleagues to further integrate studying abroad into career advising structures and articulated individual program outcomes while further assisting students in maximizing career reflection and opportunities on site.

## History of Curriculum Integration in the School of Nursing

Although the funding from the Bush Foundation Grant ran out long ago, the LAC has built a sustainable model that speaks to the success of the innovations that are still part of our work. The School of Nursing (SoN) continues to collaborate with the LAC to integrate learning abroad into the undergraduate student experience. As we forge ahead, it's important to recognize the many SoN collaborations: Curriculum Integration efforts in the college began more than 20 years ago.

The SoN participated in an LAC pilot program supported by the Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). The LAC collaborated with faculty and staff in professional and technical degree programs, including SoN faculty and staff. Project staff identified major coursework and liberal education opportunities in existing LAC and affiliated learning abroad programs and developed advising materials and processes to support Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) student participation. Together, the LAC and the SoN developed a Nursing BSN Study Abroad Major Advising Sheet (SAMAS), which outlined academic considerations and study abroad programs to ensure SoN students stayed on track academically.

## Curriculum Integration Today

The School of Nursing and Learning Abroad Center have a strong collaboration, which includes a program at the University of Limerick (Ireland) that launched fall 2018. While abroad, SoN students stay on track academically by taking classes and participating in a supervised practicum at a health care facility to mirror the curriculum of fall semester, senior year.

The LAC and SoN continue to further align and develop program needs for BSN students. In April 2019, Carol Flaten (SoN) and Eric Leinen (LAC) visited Sydney, Australia, exploring the possibility of a new partnership with Australian Catholic University (ACU), renowned for the largest nursing program in Australia. A new semester-long study program for fourth-year BSN students has been developed at ACU to handle expected overflow from the University of Limerick program. The first group of BSN students was scheduled to attend ACU in semester fall 2020, but the program was canceled due to COVID-19. The program plans to send its first cohort fall 2022.

## Undergraduate Student Participation

SoN undergraduate abroad participation has grown from 0 students in 1999–2000 to 22 students in 2018–19. The School of Nursing continues its serious commitment to increasing the number of SoN students who study abroad.

## Scholarship Information

SoN students may receive funding from the LAC. Scholarships awarded include the LAC Study Abroad Scholarship, Financial Need Scholarship, and Diversity Abroad Scholarship. Scholarships to support additional costs, such as flights and travel documents have supported students to make a full semester abroad feasible financially for students.

For the first two years of the semester-long University of Limerick Nursing BSN track (UofM students only), the University of Limerick provided a small stipend, awarded on a competitive basis to SoN students.

SoN students are also eligible to apply for the innovative LAC Bridging Loan Program. “This program has made study abroad possible for underrepresented students and highlights a creative solution to an institutional economic barrier,” according to former Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Karen Hanson. Since 2013, more than 240 University of Minnesota students have received funds to cover program deposits and flight booking costs. This enables students to pay for these pre-departure costs later with their financial aid package without added interest or fees. In addition, the UofM received an honorable mention for the 2015 Heiskell Award by the Institution of International Education (IIE).

## On-Site Program Engagement Opportunities

Since the late 1990s, the Learning Abroad Center has engaged more than 450 campus partners on program reviews, familiarization visits, and program development opportunities. Of those, 7 participants have come from the SoN. Locations visited include Australia, Denmark, Ireland, and Spain.

## Additional Faculty & Staff Engagement

### **Adviser Engagement**

LAC adviser training

LAC Student scholarship review

### **Committee Representation**

Early curriculum integration efforts

- Freshman/Sophomore Advising Group
- Major Advising Group
- Undergraduate Department and Discipline Representatives
- Learning Abroad Center Advisory Committee

### **Recent Committee Engagement**

- COVID-19 Advising Leads
- Global Health Advising Collaborative

### **Presentations**

"Making Room in the Circle for Underrepresented Student Groups: Developing a Semester-Long, Practicum-Based Program Abroad for US Nursing Students."

March 2019 Forum on Education Abroad Conference

Carol Flaten, Co-Presenter

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