

Focused Exchanges

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~~<https://salsa.nmsu.edu>~~ *Study Abroad, nmsu.edu*

Why does NMSU want to focus university exchanges?

- a. proliferation in the number of university options open to our students (exchanges, direct)
300+ institutions 46 countries
- b. limited staff to learn about the countries, the institutions, the visa requirements, the educational systems
- c. difficulty in integrating overseas curriculum with NMSU curriculum at the departmental/major level and having faculty understand the options so they advise students properly
- d. diminished capacity to build lasting, long range interests based on mutual strengths and interests
- e. inability to implement site visits to evaluate institutions, support services, and environments
- f. overlapping of institutions under different entities, such as ISEP, Australearn, Butler, etc.
- g. need to have manageable number of primarily exchange foreign institutions that create a **two-way flow** of students in selected fields of study--imperative to manage and sustain exchanges

Whose initiative is this at NMSU?

- a. Office of Study Abroad under leadership of the Assistant Dean for Study Abroad

What is included in the initiative?

- a. Interaction with selected departments that have supported their students to study abroad as part of their degree program to drum up their support and cooperation
- b. Selected exchange partners whose curriculum appears to complement and or enhance departmental programs (such as International Business, Journalism and Mass Communication, Government, Hotel, Restaurant, and Hotel Management)
- c. Review of departmental degree requirements to identify courses that could be taken overseas, with effort to match with exchange partners, and to get agreement on credit transfer.
- d. Identification of a departmental liaison who will advise incoming exchange students on course selection
- e. Office policy that no new exchanges will be managed (and covered financially) unless the probability is high that a two-way flow will occur, and with guarantee that sponsoring college or department(s) will take financial responsibility for any imbalances that cannot be corrected after 3 years.

What has been accomplished to date?

- a. have identified several cooperative partners, and have started negotiations with departments, and review of curriculum
- b. talking to several other partners about possibility
- c. use of IFSA scholarship grant to provide incentives to departments who work with us so their students are recipients of the scholarships to cover extra costs of study abroad.
- d. With d'Angers, have had campus visit, have been working with two undergraduate departments, have made contact with MBA director

What are the barriers?

- a. At graduate MBA level, director is new and this is not a high priority. Will have better results at the undergraduate level with international business, since they have a study abroad requirement, and with HRTM, since they have voted as a faculty to increase international outreach.
- b. Staff time to follow up with the details and negotiations (faculty will help, but have to be prodded!)
- c. Limited support of NMSU graduate students to go abroad for part of their program (but we have done it).
- d. Other logistical issues related to transcripts, grading, schedules, etc.