NDSU Bison Abroad Ambassador Guidelines

WHO IS A BISON ABROAD AMBASSADOR?

A Bison Abroad Ambassador is a student who has studied abroad and wants to share his/her experiences with others as well as help with study abroad events.

BENEFITS OF BEING A BISON ABROAD AMBASSADOR

- 1. There are many benefits to being a Bison Abroad Ambassador. One of the main benefits is that you will be able to share your experiences with others who actually want to hear about your time abroad! Through this exchange, you will help other students understand what the study abroad experience will be like.
- 2. Being a Bison Abroad Ambassador looks great on a resume! Along with your international experience, interning as a Bison Abroad Ambassador will show future employers that you are interested in getting involved. There are many volunteer opportunities that a Bison Abroad Ambassador can take advantage of.
- 3. Being a Bison Abroad Ambassador is fun! The NDSU Office of International Programs does activities throughout the year to promote international and study abroad programs. We are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join our team to help create awareness for international education. Being a Bison Abroad Ambassador helps students to meet new people and expand their horizons through various fun and exciting volunteer opportunities.

BISON ABROAD AMBASSADOR OPPORTUNITIES

Being a Bison Abroad Ambassador doesn't mean that you have to give all your extra time to study abroad, but we do prefer that if you commit to a being a Bison Abroad Ambassador that you fulfill that commitment, interning a minimum of 20 hours per semester. To complete your time, we suggest that you work in small groups to complete one event or project for 5-15 hours of participation time, and to spend the balance of time hours working on personal projects or volunteer work. A Bison Abroad Ambassador can choose different levels of involvement from a wide variety of activities, so you can decide what events and activities you prefer!

Arrange or Volunteer for Events:

- Class Visits Most often, you will go into NDSU classes along with the study abroad advisor
 and explain your experience studying abroad. If you would like to present on your own, most
 classrooms have PowerPoint capabilities, so you could also present by playing the Study
 Abroad Podcast that covers the basics and then talk about your experiences and answer
 questions students may have. (10-15 minutes in the classroom and each visit will count as 1/2
 hour)
- Study Abroad Fair Help with setting up and staffing information tables, as well as a chance to share your experiences with students and staff. (September 12 and February 6, 10am-2pm, 1-4 hours)
- **Global Fest** Help with setting up and hosting the new Global Fest in the Rec Center! This is a great opportunity to just have fun with students considering study abroad. (September 12, 6:00pm-8:30pm, 1-2.5 hours)

- **Pre-Departure Orientation** Sharing information about your study abroad experiences with students before they go overseas. (1.5 hours)
- Lead Study Abroad InfoSessions Sessions are held every Monday-Thursday at 4pm. They are informal small group sessions which you probably attended! You will receive training and attend two sessions before leading one on your own. (Minimum of 2 hours are given for the first session due to training and each subsequent is worth 1 hour)
- International Education Week (fall) or International Week (spring) Volunteer activities vary each year, but there are many events to participate in. (Varies)
- **Memorial Union Contact Tables** Staffing study abroad contact tables, answering questions and sharing your experiences. (1-4 hours)
- **Host a New Event** Plan and host a new event! This is a great project to work on in a small group. (5-15 hours)

Share your Experiences:

- Guest Post on Facebook Share your study abroad experiences with many others by contributing to the study abroad Facebook page. Spend a week posting 5 of your stories and photos. (2.5 hours)
- **Email Contact** Sign up as an alumni in the study abroad system to allow students to contact you regarding questions they have about study abroad and your experiences your name, email address and a short profile will be listed on our website. (2 hours)
- Review Website and Printed Materials (Exchange, Faculty-led and Sponsored program students only) Much of the information on our website and printed materials can be updated and added to in order to create a better glimpse of the program you attended. (Varies)
- Write a personal "Day in the Life" profile Reminisce about your experiences abroad in a fun and informational Day in the Life profile. Try to capture the sights, sounds, tastes and smells that make you want to return! (Varies)
- **Write "Things to Know"** Remember when you were planning to go abroad? What information would you have liked to know ahead of time about the country, city, or university where you studied. An example document is available online to help with brainstorming ideas, but feel free to improvise! (*Varies*)

Learn and Practice New Skills:

- Creative Partner Help design office window displays, brochures, or flyers. (Varies-talk to SA advisor about your ideas and to determine the amount of hours)
- **Documentarian and Marketer** Utilize Atomic Learning Tutorials or Instructional Services Training (http://www.ndsu.edu/its/training/) to learn new skills in photography or video editing. Check out a video or photography camera from the IACC and either document events such as

the Study Abroad Fair & Bison Abroad Fest and put together a short video about it. Or interview yourself and/or others about their experiences abroad, advice for travel, or other topic and put together a video to share online. (Varies-talk to SA advisor about your ideas and to determine the amount of hours)

• **Visit Career Center** Visit the Career Center to learn how to incorporate your experiences abroad into your resume and interview preparation. Contact the Career Center, Ceres 306 to make an appointment. (1 hour)

Connect with Campus:

- **Get Your Student Organization Involved** Already a member of a student organization? Plan an international or study abroad activity of your choosing with your group. Be creative! (1 hour)
- I-CORE Be a member of the International CORE team to welcome students to NDSU and assist with orientation. International Orientation takes place the week before school begins, fall and spring semesters. (Participation completes full internship requirements)
- Friendship Program Become a buddy to incoming international students. (Varies)

The Bison Abroad Ambassador Internship is meant to be a fun way to share your experiences. If you have other ideas of how to do so, please send your suggestions to <u>C.Dominique.Speer@ndsu.edu</u>.