

Establish Study Away at ATU by becoming a member of the National Student Exchange organization (NSE)

Proposal by Gaby Haulmark

1. Statement of Need:

This past year, 51 students at ATU chose to study abroad. Many other students inquired about studying abroad, but worried about the cost, leaving the country, and terrorism overseas. Study Away offers these students an opportunity to experience a new and diverse learning environment at another university in another state without having to leave the U.S. Study Abroad and Study Away both provide many of the same high impact learning opportunities: Students learn more because they are actively involved in their education, they have the opportunities to apply what they are learning in different settings, they acquire life skills, become more independent and resourceful and experience life from a different point of view. Students learn that it is o.k. to be away from their family and hometown. Study Away is, therefore, a gateway for students to later study abroad.

The National Student Exchange organization (NSE) is a non-profit organization that offers study away opportunities with almost 200 campuses in the U.S., Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In addition, students are able to take advantage of Study Abroad opportunities offered by some of these universities, e.g. Northern Arizona University and University of Wisconsin. I propose that ATU becomes a member of the NSE, in order to provide our students with the benefits of a Study Abroad experience without leaving the U.S. and to increase the number of students who study abroad.

2. Benefits:

Study Away addresses the following goals of ATU's strategic plan: **1.8** Develop and implement a diversity and inclusion plan to include all stakeholders for our campuses, **1.9** Recognize, encourage and promote the use of co-curricular and high-impact educational practices (e.g. athletics, student research, student learning, internships, research, service learning, interdisciplinary project-based courses, study abroad, learning communities), and **4.3** Develop and implement a comprehensive plan for internationalization and global education.

Study Away, over time, will increase the number of ATU students willing to study abroad. In addition, it will provide our students with a more well-rounded education because they will have access to courses that are not offered at ATU. The ATU campus will become more diverse with students attending from all over the U.S. Furthermore, ATU will have to sign only one MOU and will have access to almost 200 universities.

3. Cost:

The NSE Membership would incur the following cost to the institution:

One –time application fee:	\$ 500
One -time staff visit for evaluation:	\$ 1000
Annual Membership:	\$ 900
Annual March Placement conference participation	\$ 2000

Cost to students:

Application fee:	\$ 150
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4. Program Administration:

The Study Abroad coordinator will administer the program, since the procedures and support services are similar to those provided to students studying abroad.

5. Application process:

2017/2018: Oct.1-April 1		Submit Preliminary Application, if accepted, we continue the application process
2018 :	March	Attend annual placement conference
2018:	July	Host NSE staff for on-campus site visit and orientation
2018:	August	Submit information for online Campus profile
2019:	March	Attend annual Placement Conference
2019:	March-May	Prepare outgoing students
2019:	August	ATU students go on exchange; we receive students from other universities.

6. Conclusion:

It will be of great benefit to ATU to become a member of NSE. If we are accepted as a member, our students will have the opportunity to study at universities in Canada, Alaska, California, New York and many more. Our campus will be more diverse and the relationships with other universities will open doors for collaboration in curriculum design and team -teaching online courses and other educational opportunities. When students graduate from ATU, they will have been actively involved in the design of their own educational experience, have acquired exceptional life skills and, therefore, will be better prepared for the global job market.