STUDY ABROAD

Strategic Initiatives

2026–2027

The Office of Global Engagement continues to implement the 2025–2027 Study Abroad Strategic Plan in alignment with CMU's 2023–2028 Strategic Plan and with advice and consultation with Senior Leadership and the Faculty Senate Study Abroad Committee. Work in 2026–2027 focuses on strengthening operations and safety, supporting faculty and campus engagement, expanding international partnerships, and exploring new pathways to study abroad.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Participation & Revenue	Campus Engagement	Mission-Oriented Programs	Student Experience & Recognition	Policy, Process & Safety

Current Initiatives

VIA Global

Launched in September 2026 after a nearly yearlong evaluation process. Continue refining program-management workflows and supporting faculty and students using the system.

Safety and Crisis Response

Utilizing the new VIA Global system, training faculty and staff on the tracking and crisis response. Update safety materials and include crisis simulation and faculty training in the February 2027 orientation.

Policies and Procedures

Update the Study Abroad Policy and Procedural Manual, with clear processes and timelines for proposals, budgets, cash advances, university credit cards, course enrollment, recruitment, and financial reconciliation.

Global Partnerships

Strengthen existing international partnerships and explore new partners and programs that support faculty-led study abroad, cost-effective direct enrollment, and CMU's presence abroad.

Faculty Program Development Grants

Continue the grant program and expand from two to three grants for the 2026–2027 recruitment cycle to support faculty program development and related travel.

Campus and Department Engagement

Work with faculty and academic departments to increase awareness, identify collaboration opportunities, and support program development and student participation.

New Opportunities Under Exploration

Community College Pathways

Explore study abroad opportunities with existing community college partners to engage students completing associate degrees and support potential pathways to CMU.

First-Year Experience and Early College

Explore possible First-Year Experience study abroad programming at CMU and explore international experiences for eligible students in Michigan early college pathways, including students in their 13th year enrolled at a community college.

Domestic Study Away

Consult with faculty about limited domestic study away opportunities in the United States for domestic and international students, with educational outcomes similar to study abroad.

2026–2027 Timeline

FALL 2026	Continue VIA System implementation, refining operational processes, policy updates, safety resources, faculty development grants, and campus engagement. Establish Study Abroad, Faculty, Departmental Tiger Teams to review all processes and procedures with recommendation the Study Abroad Senate Committee. Hiring of faculty-led coordinator.

WINTER 2027	Refined budget reviews and process implementation, faculty and departmental engagement, partnership exploration, and planning for new program models. Feature crisis simulation and faculty safety training in February.
SPRING–SUMMER 2027	Continue refining operational processes, strengthening partnerships, and assessing opportunities for future program development and recruitment.

Strategic direction: The Office will continue implementing the strategic plan while assessing new opportunities for access, engagement, and growth. New initiatives will advance as institutional interest, resources, and feasibility are established.