

Request for 2025 Funding Services and Activities Fee Committee

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Office of Global Affairs

Create Date: 11/06/2025

Due Date: 11/07/2025

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Department Head Approval: 

Department Head: Bonnie Becker

Requested Amount: **\$34,878**

Departmental Information

SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS - CRITERIA

OGA's centrally-funded GOF budget suffered a critical 37% cut to operations from \$70,572 during FY25 to just \$44,508 for FY26. Compounding the adverse impact of that cut, changes in our study abroad operational model effective in FY2026 eliminated all revenue that used to support the study abroad admin budgets, which had previously been the source of funding for those part-time undergrad student positions. We'd consistently been awarded over \$10,000 in SAFC allocations to support our student positions in the past; in the last cycle, however, we were grateful to receive \$5594 after appealing the initial decision to cut OGA funding by 100%. We were not anticipating such substantial cuts to our budget and request emergency funding to ensure we can offer Study Abroad peer advising, host info sessions about upcoming programs or how to pay for study abroad, increase capacity to collaborate with other units on campus events and activities, and provide critical operations like website maintenance, creation of marketing/outreach materials, and more. The need for student positions to support OGA Study Abroad operations is even more critical now than in the past, since one of our two pro staff positions was eliminated in 2023. Without SAFC funds, we will also need to cancel the non-credit language and cultural lessons that student Language Lesson Facilitators have previously offered.

STUDENT UTILIZATION

Our programs aim to reduce disparities in achievement, experience and opportunity across diverse groups of students, create opportunities for students to learn about our diverse communities, and foster a sense of belonging, in alignment with the strategic plan. Particularly in this sociopolitical moment, OGA's programs that are based on cultural humility, anti-racist practices, honoring the cultural assets, histories, and lived experiences of our campus communities, and equitable access to global education are critical.

Study Abroad Fellows provide invaluable support for UWT Study Abroad. Many students don't realize we offer study abroad and for those who do, most assume it's not feasible for them. The most effective way for students to learn about these transformative opportunities and how to make study abroad work for them (in terms of finances, credits, juggling responsibilities, etc.) is hearing it from fellow students that have been in their shoes. In addition to providing peer advising, Fellows coordinate events, create marketing and outreach materials, offer info sessions in collaboration with other units, maintain website content, and collaborate with staff on special projects.

Leveraging students' expertise, we offer informal, non-credited **language lessons** that are open and free to UWT students. This initiative significantly expands opportunities for language learning (only Spanish is consistently taught for credit at UWT), celebrates students' linguistic and cultural diversity, and promotes intercultural learning. Based on robust student survey results, we offered Mandarin, Hindi, Korean, and Japanese lessons in 2024-25.

SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS - STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES

Frankly, we had already committed to hiring three OGA Study Abroad Fellows prior to learning about the severity of budget cuts (we were asked to model 3% and 5%) and reductions to previous allocations. We already hired and onboarded the student staff in September, and they are already engaging wonderfully in this work. However, we will likely not have enough funds to continue to support the positions after the Autumn 2025 quarter. Not including the approximately 100 participants in faculty-led study abroad programs or exchanges, we estimate our Fellows interacted with an estimated additional 200 students at info sessions, drop-in advising, appointments, pop-up events, and tabling.

Utilizing our recruitment and training models for Language Lesson Facilitators, one of our OGA staff members is already prepared to quickly recruit, hire, and train Language Lesson Facilitators to begin offering courses in Winter 2026.

SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

Study Abroad Fellows: We regularly hear from students who have decided to look into, or commit to, studying abroad that they felt driven to do so after conversations with our Fellows at tabling events, in class visits, during advising appointments, or random chats in a shared class. While hearing from faculty and full-time staff helps students understand the personal and professional benefits of studying abroad, peers are more effective in conveying that information and more in a unique way that makes students feel comfortable discussing the possibilities and what to expect, how to pay for it, etc. These students are on the front lines, making the transformative experience of study abroad visible to their peers and, through describing their own experiences, helping them to see that studying abroad is doable and extremely beneficial for their future academic or professional prospects.

We regularly analyze study abroad participation data and take great pride in knowing that the demographics of UWT students who study abroad mirror the demographics of our broader student body in terms of race, ethnicity, first-gen status, Pell-eligibility, transfer student, etc. This is certainly not the case at other institutions nationally and we strongly believe it's due largely to our OGA Fellows, who help students "see" themselves in terms of identities and lived experiences and assist students with finding ideal options and navigating processes to make studying abroad work for them. These students play a vital role in creating more equitable access to global learning opportunities. Participation in study abroad, in turn, not only contributes to personal transformation but is also associated with positive outcomes related to career success. According to a survey of 8000 alumni, study abroad (even short-term experiences like the UWT faculty-led programs we often offer) helped students build career skills like adaptability, communication and interpersonal skills, intercultural communication, navigating difference, creative problem-solving (Forum on Education Abroad "Global Learning for a Competitive Workforce 2025) and, per another 2025 study, a higher starting salary (by 6.3%) in students' first job after graduation (Forum on Education Abroad "International Experience as Career Asset").

Language Lessons: In the end-of-quarter teaching evaluations of informal language lessons, students consistently share their excitement and gratitude for being able to learn a new language from one of their peers. (The language lesson facilitators are trained bilingual student workers). Students also report developing a better understanding of the cultures and countries in which the languages are spoken and often express a desire to engage with the language more frequently. They also identify the benefit of creating community over a shared interest in language learning. We have begun to use Dubnet to track interest and participation in our language lessons.

Staff Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Student Staff ³	OGA Study Abroad Fellow #1: \$8908* \$17.13 per hour for 12 months (10 hours per week) = \$8907.60 E001	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$8,908
	Fringe @ 23%:	\$2,049
Student Staff ³	OGA Study Abroad Fellow #2: \$8908* \$17.13 per hour for 12 months (10 hours per week) = \$8907.60 E002	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$8,908
	Fringe @ 23%:	\$2,049
Student Staff ³	OGA Study Abroad Fellow #3: \$8908* less previously allocated SAFC award of \$5594 = \$3314 \$17.13 per hour for 12 months (10 hours per week) = \$8907.60 E003	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$3,314
	Fringe @ 23%:	\$762
Student Staff ³	Language Lesson Facilitator #1: \$2878* *\$17.13 per hour for 6 months (7 hours per week) E004	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$2,878
	Fringe @ 23%:	\$662
Student Staff ³	Language Lesson Facilitator #2: \$2878* *\$17.13 per hour for 6 months (7 hours per week) E005	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$2,878
	Fringe @ 23%:	\$662
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		\$33,070

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Other Services	Tech Recharge Fee: 1.25 FTE for 12 months = \$1108	S001 \$1,108
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	Swag items (e.g., stickers, pens, luggage tags) and incentives for event participation)	S002 \$300
Food	Pizza and other snack items for Study Abroad info sessions, pop-up events, workshops, etc.	S003 \$400
SUPPLIMENTAL TOTAL:		\$1,808

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$33,070
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$1,808
COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$34,878

Supplemental Documents

	JANUARY 2025 STUDY ABROAD NEWSLETTER This is an example of the newsletter that our OGA Study Abroad Fellows create and distribute and also captures the variety of events and services they typically offer.
	JAPANESE LESSONS FLYER W25
	KOREAN LESSONS FLYER W25
	MANDARIN LESSONS FLYER A24
	HINDI LESSONS FLYER A24