

Responsible Executive Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Approving Officials: Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Vice President for Student Affairs
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I. INTRODUCTION

This document sets the general policies for implementing international reciprocal student exchange agreements for specific Florida State University (FSU) Colleges and Departments and for university-wide exchange partnerships, including the development of exchange partnerships. It also includes general policies for managing exchange programs, including the processing of applications for outgoing FSU students and incoming international students and supporting exchange participants during and after the exchange.

Procedures for implementing international reciprocal student exchange agreements are outlined in “International Reciprocal Student Exchange Agreements: Procedures.” The Procedure document includes the specific forms and documents referred to in this policy.

A complete list of FSU’s current International Reciprocal Student Exchange Agreement partners is available global.fsu.edu/exchanges.

II. STAFF AND FACULTY ROLES

The Program Director, International Initiatives supports FSU Colleges, Departments, or faculty in developing international exchange agreements.

The Program Director, FSU Global Exchanges (hereafter known as Program Director, Exchanges) provides liaison and support for outgoing and incoming exchange students and participating Departments. The Program Director, Exchanges also provides orientation and ongoing support and manages the registration and course approval process for students.

The Center for Global Engagement Immigration Advisors supports inbound international exchange students with the documents necessary for their visa applications and provides immigration advising.

The FSU Faculty Advisor for International Exchange is the FSU Faculty member who represents the participating academic Department or College. The Faculty Advisor initiating an exchange agreement is responsible for reviewing 10-15 course offerings available at the partner institution and determining equivalent FSU courses as well as providing a list of at least 10-15 FSU courses in the FSU Department/College which will be available for inbound exchange students to take. The FSU Faculty Advisor is expected to promote the exchange to FSU students, to support inbound and outbound students through the Department's selection process, and to assist inbound and outbound students with course selection, approvals, and determining course equivalencies. FSU Faculty Advisors are also expected to support university-wide exchange programs, for example by acting as

a member of a selection committee, by reviewing applications of inbound and outbound students, by selecting nominees for the exchange, and by assisting inbound and outbound students to enroll in courses and determining FSU course equivalencies.

The student's *Academic Advisor* (typically a staff member in the student's major Department) is responsible for reviewing transcripts for outgoing FSU students and for reviewing proposed course equivalencies to ensure that the exchange will not delay the student's graduation and that the courses registered for at FSU do not exceed the approved number of hours for specific courses, as listed in the General Bulletin. The student's Academic Advisor also verifies that the total credits that will be earned through participation in the exchange at each off-campus site is less than 25% of the hours required for the student's degree. The 25% rule applies to each off-campus site independently not cumulatively.

The *Exchange Oversight Committee*, appointed by the Provost and chaired by the Assistant Provost, comprised of faculty and professional staff (ex officio), will: 1/ Review and evaluate new, existing, and renewing academic exchange agreements; 2/ Ensure the quality and integrity of academic credit recorded on the Florida State University academic transcript as part of the exchange agreements; 3/ Review reports of student experiences in academic exchanges; 4/ Rank order student nominees if the number of qualified applicants exceeds the number of exchange placements; 5/ Provide advice to the Provost on directions and strategic priorities for academic exchange agreements.

FSU Department(s) and College(s) are expected to support reciprocal exchange programs. Departments/Colleges are responsible for developing procedures for approving course equivalencies for outbound students and/or designating a staff or faculty member to the role of reviewing and approving course equivalencies in line with existing policies and procedures. Departments/Colleges are also responsible for updating and expanding the list of courses that inbound and outbound students may take throughout the course of the exchange. The Chair of the Department or Dean of the College is responsible for appointing an alternate FSU Faculty Advisor/designee in the event the position becomes vacant.

III. POLICY

A. ESTABLISHING AN INTERNATIONAL RECIPROCAL STUDENT EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

Florida State University has two kinds of Reciprocal Exchange Agreements. The first is between an international university and specific FSU Department(s) and/or College(s), and the second is a university to university exchange agreement. In both cases the agreement is made with an international institution of similar academic standing that agrees, as approved by the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs on advice from the Exchange Oversight Committee, provided in Attachment A, to a formal exchange of students at the undergraduate and/or graduate level. This agreement outlines the responsibilities of the institutions as well as the responsibilities of the students. Students enroll in, earn credit hours and pay tuition and fees to their home institutions while studying at the host institutions.

Partner Selection and Rationale

International Exchange Agreements are only made with excellent institutions that demonstrate appropriate resources, regional or national accreditation, and a suitable list of courses offered in English (or appropriate foreign language) in participating Department(s) or College(s).

Risk Mitigation

FSU does not develop exchange agreements with a university located in a region of a country that is a Level 3 (Reconsider Travel) on the State Department Travel Advisory list, or with a restricted entity according to the U.S. government. If a university is in a country with regions with an advisory of Level 3 (Reconsider Travel), students will also acknowledge that they are in a country with Level 3 regions and that they need to plan their travel accordingly.

Approval Process for new international reciprocal exchange agreements

The FSU Faculty Advisor initiating a Department/College exchange program will complete the "Application of Intent to Establish an International Exchange Agreement" ("Intent") and other required forms. The Program Director, FSU International Initiatives provides support and assists with the review process. The "Intent" paperwork is endorsed by review and signature by the faculty member initiating the exchange, the Chair of the participating Department, the Dean of the participating College, the Dean of Undergraduate Studies and/or the Dean of Graduate Studies (depending upon the level of the students participating), and the Assistant Provost.

Proposals to develop a university-wide exchange program are submitted to the Exchange Oversight Committee and to the Assistant Provost and the Provost for review and signature.

Balance

The basis for continuation of an exchange agreement rests with this principle of reciprocity; it is expected that the total number of exchange placements used by incoming students equal the total number of exchange placements used by outbound students over a five-year period. An exchange placement is equal to one student for one semester or the equivalent, where AY=2 semester placements, Fall or Spring=1 semester placement, and Summer=.5 semester placement.

The combined balance for all exchange programs is more important than the balance of each individual partnership. The Exchange Oversight Committee will conduct an annual review of the overall balance of exchanges to ensure a healthy balance overall despite normal fluctuations in popularity for individual programs in any given semester.

If a specific exchange partnership is out of balance and remains imbalanced in the following semester(s), an attempt may be made to correct the imbalance by adjusting the number of nominations available in subsequent semester(s) in order to maintain reasonable balance over the duration of the agreement. Students currently enrolled in the program will not be affected by the attempt to restore balance.

Inclusions

Specific Department/College Exchange Agreement: Inclusions

International Agreements for a Reciprocal Student Exchange Program apply only to students studying in the area specified by the Department(s) or College(s) sponsoring the agreement at each institution. Students studying in different FSU Department(s) or College(s) may be considered for the exchange on a space available basis. The formal inclusion of other areas of study (Departments/Colleges) are to be addressed by addendum.

Courses available to inbound and outbound exchange students are mostly limited to the academic departments/colleges sponsoring the exchange. In some cases, inbound students may also be able to select from lower-level General Studies/Liberal Studies (1000 or 2000-level) courses on a space available basis, even when they are not provided by the sponsoring FSU College. Upper level courses (3000 or 4000-level) outside of the specific Department or College may be considered on a case by case basis if there is availability, however, priority is given to degree-seeking FSU students enrolled in that major. The host institution reserves the right to exclude the student from specific courses based on enrollment constraints or specific course requirements.

University-to-University Exchange Agreement: Inclusions

In a university-wide reciprocal exchange agreement, students from all FSU Department(s) and College(s) may participate, and students from all majors at the partner institution may study at FSU provided the academic prerequisites have been met (with specific exceptions as stated in the agreement).

The chairs and deans that each Department/College will develop a process for approving FSU course equivalencies for courses falling under the Department/College's domain. Each Department/College is also responsible for providing a list of 10-15 FSU courses that will be made available for inbound exchange students to take.

Chairs and deans will make space made available for inbound students without having to receive special permission from each faculty member teaching the class. Departments will not be permitted to exclude inbound exchange students from classes without good cause, and they will be required to provide a reasonable alternative – giving priority to the students' list of desired courses.

The exception to this broad inclusion policy is for professional colleges at FSU, including the College of Law, College of Nursing, and College of Medicine as well as the Colleges of Film and Music and Departments of Dance and Theater in the College of Fine Arts, all of which are limited access by audition only.

Responsibilities of the Institutions

The host institutions agree to enroll exchange students and to provide tuition and fee exemptions according to the rules and regulations of their institution. The host institutions provide pre-departure and arrival information, visa and insurance requirements, information on housing options and other program-related assistance as deemed appropriate and as normally available to enrolled students. As full-time students, exchange students have access to learning resources and services including the library, computer labs, health and fitness facilities, appropriate academic counseling and advising, assistance in selecting and enrolling in courses and the institution's grievance and complaint process.

If either institution becomes aware of any emergency situation involving an exchange student, the host institution further agrees to notify the home institution.

Upon request, the host institution informs the home institution of the student's enrollment status and promptly informs the home institution if any exchange student withdraws or reduces the number of credits attempted. The host institution further agrees to immediately notify the home institution in writing of any changes in the academic status of the exchange student.

In the event that an FSU student at the host institution receives a stipend, scholarship, or other source of funding from the host institution, the host institution agrees to notify FSU of the nature, amount, and dates of such funding in order that FSU may comply with State of Florida, U.S. federal, and student home institution guidelines pertinent to the particular student.

Budgetary Authority

The Exchange Agreement may not encumber or expend university Educational and General (E&G) funds beyond faculty and staff support needed to operate the agreement as approved by the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Vice President for Student Affairs or commit the faculty member, Department or College to budgetary support of any nature without the approval of the appropriate budgetary authority and the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. Any funding required for this Agreement is subject to appropriations by the Legislature of the State of Florida for this purpose.

Validation

The International Reciprocal Exchange Agreement is validated by signature of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, the designee acting for and on behalf of the Florida State University Board of Trustees. The Exchange Agreement shall become effective from the date of the last signature, and shall remain in force until the sunset date – usually five years from the date of its validation – unless sooner terminated by the parties under the provisions stated within the agreement. Signed original agreements are retained in the office of the Program Director, International Initiatives.

B. OVERSIGHT OF INTERNATIONAL RECIPROCAL STUDENT EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS

The *Exchange Oversight Committee*, appointed by the Provost and chaired by the Assistant Provost, comprised of faculty and professional staff (ex officio), will: 1. Review and evaluate new, existing, and renewing academic exchange agreements; 2. Ensure the quality and integrity of academic credit recorded on the Florida State University academic transcript as part of the exchange agreements; 3. Review reports of student experiences in academic exchanges; 4. Rank order student nominees if the number of qualified applicants exceeds the number of exchange placements; 5. Provide advice to the Provost on directions and strategic priorities for academic exchange agreements.

Renewing International Reciprocal Student Exchange Agreements

The Exchange Oversight Committee will review the renewal process for each Exchange Program and recommend whether it should be renewed or allowed to Sunset.

Adding Additional Departments/Colleges to Existing International Reciprocal Student Exchange Agreements

Formal inclusion of other areas of study (Departments/Colleges) are addressed in an “International Agreement Addendum for a Reciprocal Student Exchange Program between a Partner University and Florida State University.”

TERMINATING OR SUSPENDING AN INTERNATIONAL RECIPROCAL STUDENT EXCHANGE AGREEMENT Agreements may be terminated prior to the sunset date under the provisions stated within the agreement, typically by either party giving 60 days' notice of

termination in writing to the other party. Students already admitted to and participating in the exchange program must be allowed to complete the program.

Florida State University may at any time suspend approval for an international reciprocal student exchange agreement or cancel a specific student's participation.

Factors considered in immediate program suspension may include, but are not limited to, an increase in health or safety risk in the host country location, or an update in travel advisories or health notices for the host country. In this case, the university will work with the student to identify alternative coursework on campus, an alternative exchange placement, or will refund the student's FSU tuition and fees for the semester if necessary.

Factors considered in cancelling a specific student's participation may include, but are not limited to, behavioral concerns, student conduct code violations, or a violation of signed travel and program agreements and waivers. If a student's participation is canceled due to a violation on their part of the said rules, regulations, instructions, and/or standards of conduct and behavior, the student will be sent home at their own expense with no refund from FSU. In this case, the university will work with the student to identify alternative coursework on campus. However, the student may face additional negative and significant academic consequences at FSU as a result of their program cancellation.

Florida State University may also refuse to grant permission for an FSU student to participate by denying the student's "Exemption Request for Travel to Locations on the U.S. Department of State Travel Warning or Alert List".

C. OUTGOING FSU STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN A RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE **University Requirements for Participation in an Exchange Program**

All participants must be currently enrolled and degree-seeking students in good standing at their home institution. A student participating in the exchange must be in attendance at their home institution for one semester prior to the exchange. Students participating in the exchange must register at the home institution during the exchange period.

Exchange students must abide by all rules and regulations of the host institution, in addition to abiding by FSU's Student Conduct Code. Upon enrolling in the exchange program, the student must grant permission to the host institution to send a transcript of courses, credits, and grades to the home institution at the end of each term.

Participating FSU students must be in compliance with FSU's mandatory health insurance requirements for international experience, complete all of the required documents, and attend pre-departure preparation and orientation at the FSU Center for Global Engagement.

Participation in the reciprocal exchange program does not qualify the participant for automatic admission to the host institution's degree programs. In the event that a participating student seeks to become a degree earning student at the host institution that student must comply with all appropriate admissions and visa requirements.

Selection of Participants

Specific Department/College Exchange Agreement: Selection Process

Each Department/College is responsible for developing a selection criteria and process and for reviewing and approving inbound student nominations for its Department/College exchange programs. The partner institution may impose specific application deadlines and procedures for nominating exchanges students.

University-to-University Exchange Agreement: Selection Process

All outbound students interested in going on the exchange will submit an application to the Program Director, Exchanges. When qualified applicants exceed the number of exchange placements, the Exchange Oversight Committee will review applications and rank order the nominees, as well as a prioritized waiting list in case a nominated student is unable to go on the exchange.

Coursework Management and Review

Pre-Approval of Proposed Coursework

Students will review the host institution's course offerings and develop a list of preferred courses and alternates. The student is responsible for providing web links to the syllabi or other appropriate written documentation for the courses.

The Department/College designee reviews proposed foreign courses and approves FSU course equivalencies following Department/College procedures. The student's Academic Advisor also reviews and approves proposed coursework. (See Staff and Faculty Roles for additional detail).

Courses not preapproved will be reviewed as soon as possible or upon the student's return to FSU.

FSU Placeholder Course

The Program Director, Exchanges notifies the FSU Office of the Registrar that the student has been approved for an exchange. The Registrar's Office designee enrolls the student in a placeholder course(s), which has been approved for students participating in an FSU exchange. The placeholder course(s) remain on the students' FSU record throughout the exchange and until they receive their final transcripts from the host institution. Students are enrolled in 1-16 credit hours depending on the total number of FSU credits the student plans to transfer from the host institution. The placeholder course(s) allow students to access their financial aid.

Should students receive fewer FSU credits on the exchange than projected, they are responsible for paying back the portion of financial aid they are not entitled to receive (see below, Financial Aid).

Should students receive more FSU credits on the exchange than projected, they are responsible for paying the additional tuition. If financial aid has already been disbursed, it may not be possible for students to receive additional financial aid to cover the cost of the additional credit hours.

Transcript Review and Credit Posting

The Department/College designee is responsible for determining the equivalence of a course taken on an exchange to a course offered at FSU following Department/College procedures. If the courses on the student's transcript were preapproved, no further action is needed. After the student completes the exchange and the transcript has been received from the exchange partner, the Program Director, Exchanges reviews the student's transcript and assigns grades and number of credit hours earned for each course taken on the exchange based on the established grade scale and credit conversion rate

for the exchange program and guidance below. If a transcript contains courses that were not preapproved, the student is responsible for working with the Department/College designee and his/her Academic Advisor to determine FSU course equivalencies.

The Registrar’s Office designee builds the FSU courses, coding courses as part of the international exchange program and including in the course comments: Student Exchange at [international partner, country]. Questions: [Program Director, Exchanges, email].

The student’s FSU transcript will read “Articulated credits earned on exchange at [international institution, country]” for the semester in which the student participated in an international exchange. “NG” no grade is assigned if the transcript has not arrived prior to the end of the FSU semester. Transcripts for FSU graduate students are processed using the same procedure.

FSU reports these courses to the Board of Governors on the SIF file with a student section funding flag of “R” (for reciprocal) on data element 01103. Outbound students do not generate FTEs.

Guidance for International Credit Conversion

FSU’s student-centered philosophy has an important role in determining how international credit will be converted to FSU credit. Students should receive a reasonable amount of FSU credit for they work they do abroad, based on the following guidelines:

*The Florida State University Faculty Handbook*¹ provides faculty the definition of course credit: “In most undergraduate and graduate courses, one semester hour of student credit represents approximately 50 minutes of faculty-student contact per week, or two or more hours of regularly scheduled laboratory, practice, directed independent study, or other formal course activity per week within the 15 weeks of scheduled class time per semester.”

When determining course hour equivalencies, courses at the host institution may not be combined to be the equivalent of a single FSU course.

In accordance with World Education Services (WES), a well-respected evaluator for international academic credit, the following conversion rate is used as a guideline for host institutions that use the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits: 1 ECTS=.67 FSU credits). FSU course credits will be rounded to a whole number.

ECTS Conversion Scale

1 ECTS	= .67 (rounded to 1)
2 ECTS	= 1.34 (rounded to 1)
3 ECTS	= 2.01 (rounded to 2)
4 ECTS	= 2.68 (rounded to 3)
5 ECTS	= 3.35 (rounded to 3)
6 ECTS	= 4.02 (rounded to 4)
7 ECTS	= 4.69 (rounded to 5)
8 ECTS	= 5.36 (rounded to 5)
9 ECTS	= 6.03 (rounded to 6)

¹ The Florida State University Faculty Handbook 2008, rev. 5/20/2014, pg. 147, available at: <http://facultyhandbook.fsu.edu/content/download/58347/676035/FacHandbook5-20-14.pdf>

10 ECTS	= 6.7 (rounded to 7)
11 ECTS	= 7.37 (rounded to 7)
12 ECTS	= 8.04 (rounded to 8)
13 ECTS	= 8.71 (rounded to 9)
14 ECTS	= 9.38 (rounded to 9)
15 ECTS	= 10.05 (rounded to 10)
16 ECTS	= 10.72 (rounded to 11)
17 ECTS	= 11.39 (rounded to 11)
18 ECTS	= 12.06 (rounded to 12)
19 ECTS	= 12.73 (rounded to 13)
20 ECTS	= 13.4 (rounded to 13)

In special cases, where more work is done on the exchange than is reflected in the FSU course equivalencies, the Program Director, Exchanges and the FSU Faculty Advisor or Department/College Designee will work with the Registrar's office to ensure that the student receives a reasonable amount of FSU credit for the work being done on the exchange. For instance, the student may be enrolled in DIS, special topics, or supervised research credits as appropriate when credit hour differences are significant enough to warrant schedule adjustments for the student.

ACCRAO Edge and materials provided by the partner institution as well as comparable US institutions will be used as resources for establishing grade scales and credit conversion rates for exchange programs.

Percentage of Credit Hours Required for Students

The total credits of the exchange experience is less than 25% of the credit hours required for the degree. The 25% rule applies to each off-campus site independently not cumulatively. This is reviewed by the student's Academic Advisor.

FSU Residency Requirements

Because students are enrolled at FSU during the semester(s) they participate on the exchange, they meet FSU's residency requirement.

Financial Aid

All tuition and fees and financial aid for outbound exchange students go through Florida State University following normal procedures. The only delay for students entitled to receive financial aid during the exchange is the start date of the exchange program, when it has a different start date from FSU's academic calendar.

Financial Aid: Disbursement Schedule

For students going to host institutions that start classes before the last week of FSU's classes (the same semester for which they are registered for FSU classes), and who have been awarded financial aid, awards are available for disbursement as follows: at the start date of the host institution. If classes start more than ten days after FSU's start date FSU tuition costs are deferred until the financial aid is disbursed. Student Business Services (SBS) adds a batch tuition deferment to all outbound students enrolled based on their dates of attendance at the host university.

Financial Aid: Repayment Clock

If a student goes to a host institution in the Fall semester and that term interferes with the student's ability to attend FSU's Spring semester, his/her repayment clock with the financial aid lenders starts that Spring semester. A student can stop the repayment clock when they enroll in the subsequent summer or fall semester, but the spring months are counted in the total amount of time before loan repayment starts.

Financial Aid: Certifying Eligibility

If the host institution's academic calendar does not coincide with FSU's academic calendar, it may affect financial aid certification as the student may earn "NG" no grade until his/her transcript arrives. The student can receive recertification after their official transcript, with acceptable grades, arrives from the host institution.

Financial Aid: Student Fee Responsibility

The student will refund to Bright Futures the award amount received for course(s) which are dropped or withdrawn at the host institution after FSU's drop and add period. All courses posted on the student's transcript from the host institution are transferred to FSU permanent record and additional fees may be required for courses added after FSU tuition is paid.

Readmission to the University

Undergraduate students who are not enrolled at FSU for three or more consecutive terms will need to apply for readmission.

Graduate students who are not enrolled at FSU for two or more consecutive terms will need to apply for readmission.

Emergency Response

Prior to departure, FSU students participating in an international student exchange are required to inform the US State Department of their location in the country by enrolling in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program and also sign the "Acknowledgement of Risk and General Release Form" by which the student agrees to hold harmless and to indemnify Florida State University from any liability for injury related to their participation in the program (including periods in transit to or from the destination.) This falls under FSU's International Travel procedures, which is overseen by the Assistant Provost and his designee.

In the event of an emergency involving a student abroad, the Assistant Provost or designee will be the point of contact at FSU and make all internal notifications and follow up as outlined by FSU's International Travel procedures.

D. INCOMING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN A RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE

Student Eligibility

Incoming international exchange students will meet the following requirements: be degree seeking students in good standing at their home university; provide proof of financial support by submitting the Certification of Financial Responsibility; meet international student health insurance requirements; meet health history requirements of all enrolled FSU students; and provide an original university transcript. In addition, all students will provide required scores for language proficiency as set by FSU Office of Admissions, unless exempted by FSU's Office of Admissions. Students from

a country exempt from the English language proficiency requirement do not need to provide English proficiency scores. In some cases, a student may be exempted from providing the English proficiency scores if English is the language of instruction at his/her home university. In such cases, the student's transcript must state that English is the language of instruction.

FSU waives tuition and fees for inbound exchange by adding the 'EXCHANGE' waiver and removes any late registration fees. Incoming students do not generate FTEs.

Student Application and Coursework Registration

The FSU Faculty Advisor or a selection committee reviews and approves the nominated student's application, including course selection. In the event that courses listed by students are not available for the semester or the course is full, the FSU Faculty Advisor or designee provides alternate courses or requests an override. If the student requests a course outside of the participating FSU Department(s)/College(s), the student will need approval from the Department/College they wish to study in.

University-wide reciprocal exchange programs do not require the Chair/Dean's approval to register the student for an FSU class, because the Provost authorizes that space will be made available for inbound students without having to receive special permission from each faculty member teaching the class.

Immigration Support

FSU's Center for Global Engagement (CGE) assists incoming students with FSU admission and registration processes (including health insurance requirements) and provides immigration documents required to apply for a U.S. J-1 Student Visa. CGE staff provide students with orientation on immigration, health insurance and other topics to help students succeed in their exchange experience.

IV. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Florida State University International Reciprocal Student Exchange Agreements have followed parts of this policy and the attendant procedures since February 2008. The policy and procedures were reviewed and approved in August 2016 and reviewed and revised in 2019.

This policy is the purview of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Provost is responsible for announcing and publicizing the policy among Florida State University constituents and for monitoring mandatory compliance. Constituents are informed as each component is implemented. The Assistant Provost and designee are responsible for coordinating FSU's response to an emergency involving an FSU student on an exchange program. The Vice President for Student Affairs is responsible for all immigration services and support to inbound and outbound students through the Center for Global Engagement. The Assistant Provost is responsible for implementing, publicizing, and monitoring the policy.

V. LEGAL SUPPORT, JUSTIFICATION, AND REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

Florida Constitution, Article IX, Section 7, BOG Regulation 1.001(4) BOT Delegation to President, President Delegation to individual Vice Presidents. FSU Policy 2-1, Development of Policies.

Additional authorities.

Florida Statutes: 1007.01. [Articulation]

1009.24, [SUS Fees]

1009.26(9) [Fee Waivers]

1009.40 [Student Financial Aid]

Board of Governors Regulation: 3.009 [Student Financial Aid]

6.001[General Admissions].

6.009 [Admission of International Students to State University System (SUS) Institutions].

Approved *Sally Murphy*

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Approved *Amy Hecht*

Vice President for Student Affairs

ATTACHMENT A

Exchange Oversight Committee

A. Membership:

Assistant Provost, International Initiatives (Chair)

Faculty member

Faculty member

International Travel, Safety and Risk Program Manager

Program Director, Exchanges, CGE (ex-officio)

Program Director, FSU International Initiatives, CGE (ex-officio)

B. Background and Context:

The FSU policy on reciprocal student exchanges is published at policies.fsu.edu. This includes detailed outlines of policies and procedures. The FSU policies and procedures for individual faculty and students for reciprocal student exchanges are published at: <https://global.fsu.edu/exchange-programs> The university policies and procedures on student international travel also ensure that any international student exchange experiences are undertaken with adequate attention to student health and safety.

FSU general student travel policies are outlined at: <https://global.fsu.edu/travel-policy/student-travel-policy> Introductory and orientation sessions offered for students on a regular basis by the Center for Global Engagement, and these session times are published at: <https://global.fsu.edu/exchange-programs>.

The policies and procedures for reciprocal student exchanges advance the mission of the university:

“Florida State University preserves, expands, and disseminates knowledge in the sciences, technology, arts, humanities, and professions, while embracing a philosophy of learning strongly rooted in the traditions of the liberal arts. The university is dedicated to excellence in teaching, research, creative endeavors, and service. The university strives to instill the strength, skill, and character essential for lifelong learning, personal responsibility, and sustained achievement within a community that fosters free inquiry and embraces diversity.

The university’s strategic plan implementation map includes the goal to “enhance global competencies and experience”, and reciprocal student exchange programs are one mechanism to advance that goal. Reciprocal student exchange agreements are not required at FSU but provide opportunities for enhancement of the undergraduate program and experience under a supervised process and in pre-approved settings. The international reciprocal student exchange process offers a high impact instructional experience and learning experience tailored to the individual student’s academic needs and goals.

C. Exchange Oversight Committee Responsibilities: Summary

The Exchange Oversight Committee provides oversight and direction for international academic exchange agreements, ensures the quality and integrity of academic credit, and oversees the implementation of the university Policy on Reciprocal Academic Exchanges. Its responsibilities include the following:

1. Review and evaluate new, existing, and renewing academic exchange agreements;
2. Ensure the quality and integrity of academic credit recorded on the Florida State University academic transcript as part of the exchange agreements;

3. Review reports of student experiences in academic exchanges;
4. Rank order student nominees if the number of qualified applicants exceeds the number of exchange placements;
5. Provide advice to the Provost on directions and strategic priorities for academic exchange agreements.

D. Exchange Oversight Committee Responsibilities: Detailed

1. Review and evaluate new, existing, and renewing academic exchange agreements to ensure the quality of programs and courses offered through cooperative academic arrangements;
2. Review the annual report on international academic exchanges, the overall number of credit hours taken by FSU students going to other institutions, and the number of credit hours taken by students coming from other universities and hosted by FSU.
3. Ensure that a signed contract or memorandum of agreement is in place for each exchange partner.
4. Review the reciprocal academic exchange agreements to ensure this signed written agreement clearly delineates the responsibilities and roles of all parties to the agreement, ensures the quality of the educational programs and courses covered by these agreements, and provision for evaluating the agreement in relation to the mission of the institution.
5. Review and approve/ not approve new academic exchange agreements academic exchange agreements considering the criteria outlined below to ensure the agreement meets university standards.
6. Evaluate existing exchanges. The committee may choose any existing agreement or a selection of the existing agreements to examine in more depth each year to ensure the agreement meets university standards.
7. Review and approve/ not approve renewals of academic exchange agreements every five years, considering the criteria outlined below to ensure the agreement meets university standards.
8. Reviews of new, existing, and renewing academic exchange agreements will include consideration of the following criteria:
 - The partnership supports FSU's mission or enhances areas of priority at FSU
 - Academically rigorous coursework is offered at a properly accredited institution
 - Non-native English speakers coming to FSU will meet FSU's English requirements
 - There is sufficient demand at FSU to attend the partner institution

- The FSU department has identified a list of appropriate courses for outbound students at the partner university, and for in-bound students at FSU.
- Exchange flows are or will be balanced with sufficient tuition and fees from outgoing students to cover incoming students
- Academic calendars are compatible
- There is a safe environment at the partner/ host university for studies and other activities
- The exchange provide an opportunities to study in a region or country or a field of study not sufficiently served by other exchanges
- The exchange avoids a concentration of incoming students in certain high-demand disciplines or majors-only courses without the permission of the specific FSU department and college
- The partnership supports FSU's mission or enhances areas of priority at FSU
- For a new agreement, the core faculty member, department, and college are committed to a sustained partnership, and an "intent to establish" form for a new agreement is signed by the faculty member, Department Chair, and College Dean.
- For a renewal of an agreement, a summary report is completed and an "intent to renew" form is signed by the faculty member, Department Chair, and College Dean.
- The partnership complements existing international collaborations at FSU.

9. The Exchange Oversight Committee will ensure that the following documentation from these reviews is collected and maintained:

Copies of signed contracts and consortial agreements.

Evidence that the institution regularly evaluates the cooperative academic arrangement against the purpose of the institution.

Documents that clearly stipulate the responsibility of each party to ensure course quality.

Documents that clearly stipulate the responsibility of the SACSCOC institution to ensure ongoing compliance with the standards/requirements as applicable to the cooperative academic arrangement.

10. Ensure the quality and integrity of academic credit recorded on the Florida State University academic transcript as part of the exchange agreements

11. Ensure the review and approval of credits taken as part of an approved reciprocal academic exchange agreement follow the policies and procedures laid out in the university policy.

12. Ensure the total credits of a single exchange experience are no more than 24% of the credit hours required for the degree.

13. The committee will undertake steps necessary to ensure academic quality and integrity, including oversight of the procedures outlined in the Reciprocal Exchange Agreement Policy and the procedures outlined below.

14. The committee will review a selection of individual student academic exchange records from each year to track the processes of application, course approval and transfer of credit. The review of transfer credit for specific students participating in an international academic exchange program will include examination of the following (as well as any other questions the Exchange Oversight Committee may have):

- Student application was submitted to the Exchange Coordinator
- Exchange Coordinator reviewed and approved the student's eligibility to participate in the exchange.
- Application is reviewed by the Exchange Coordinator and the student's Academic Advisor to ensure the student will complete no more than 24% of degree program hours at the foreign host institution.
- The proposed exchange courses at the host institution and local FSU course equivalents were pre-approved by a faculty member in the appropriate academic department based up a review of course descriptions or course syllabi from the host institution.
- The review and pre-approval of the proposed courses and credits have been confirmed by the student's Academic Advisor.
- Alternate courses have also been review and pre-approved by relevant faculty members and the Academic Advisor in the event that the student needs to change their proposed course schedule at the host institution.
- When the course and semester are complete, official transcripts have been sent by the host university to the Exchange Coordinator.
- The Exchange Coordinator has reviewed the foreign transcripts, created the course sections for the local pre-approved course and entered the grade equivalents following either the ECTS or ACCROA Edge procedures.
- Exchange courses are noted as such on the official FSU transcript.

15. The Exchange Oversight Committee will ensure that the following documentation is collected and maintained: Redacted transcripts that demonstrate how the credits earned under these agreements appear on the institution's transcript. Documentation of the ways in which it exercises appropriate oversight (as outlined above and in the Reciprocal Student Exchange Policy) to ensure the quality and integrity of all credit transcribed.

16. Review reports of student experiences on academic exchanges and include this information in program decisions

17. The Exchange Oversight Committee will prepare and the Program Director will distribute and collect the results of a survey or exit interviews with participating students to ask about their experiences in specific international academic exchanges.

These questions should address students' experiences at the host institution, including: academic quality, advising services, student support services, housing, food, transportation, and health and safety, contribution to learning, development cross-cultural competencies, and overall assessment of the experience.

18. Rank order students nominees of the number of qualified applicants exceeds the number of exchange placement;

When qualified applicants exceed the number of exchange placements, the Exchange Oversight Committee will review applications and rank order the nominees, as well as preparing a prioritized waiting list in case a nominated student is unable to go on the exchange.

19. Provide advice to the Provost on directions and strategic priorities for academic exchange agreements.

20. The Exchange Oversight Committee will develop and update a strategic plan for directions and priorities for FSU's international academic exchange agreements. These priorities should be connected to the University Strategic Plan. Areas of high priority and opportunity may be identified, or areas where we do not currently offer programs.

21. Provide advice to the Provost on any other issue concerning international academic exchange agreements.

E. Exchange Oversight Committee Procedures:

The Exchange Oversight Committee will meet at least twice per year to review and approve or not approve items in its areas of responsibility. Items may be reviewed and approved by the committee between face-to-face meetings by e-mail and/or a secure organizational web site, and these will be formally noted in the agenda and approved minutes of the bi-annual committee meetings.

The Exchange Oversight Committee will prepare an agenda and record approved minutes to note discussions and approvals at each of its bi-annual meetings.

The standing agenda for each committee meeting will include the following:

Call to order/attendance

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Review of annual report on international academic exchanges.

Review and approve new academic exchange agreements and renewals of academic exchange agreements.

Review of selection of student records for outgoing international academic exchanges.
Review reports of student experiences on international academic exchanges.
Review applications and rank order the nominees,
Review and approve new academic exchange agreements and renewals of academic exchange agreements
Discuss strategic plan for directions and priorities for FSU's international academic exchange agreements.
Discuss any existing exchanges at the committee's discretion.
Any other issue concerning international academic exchange agreements.