Position brief for the position of
Associate Vice President for Curricular Internationalization
IES Abroad

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Opportunity Overview

Associate Vice President for Curricular Internationalization (AVPCI)

IES Abroad, one of the premier study abroad organizations in the world, seeks an individual with years of experience in teaching and/or curricular design to work with the new Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost (EVPAAP) and the Vice President for Academic Programming (VPAP) to continue to build on and expand IES Abroad’s strong academic and experiential learning reputation.

IES Abroad educates students to become global leaders through prominent study abroad and internship programs, which offer students worldwide experiential learning opportunities that meet the highest standards of academic quality. With 32 centers in 80 different locations around the globe and more than 130,000 students who have participated in their wide variety of programs, this opportunity gives a leader who is committed to academic excellence and global education a powerful opportunity to be successful and make a difference.

This newly created position of Associate Vice President for Curricular Internationalization will work with the Vice President for Academic Programming (VPAP) to develop, articulate and lead the implementation of strategies for meeting IES Abroad’s goal of comprehensive curricular-diversity integration and curricular internationalization.

The Associate Vice President will have as his/her central focus the development of the strategic framework for integrating curricula between Centers, ensuring that multiple perspectives are brought to bear on all IES courses and programs, and developing pathways that enable more diverse majors to partake in study abroad opportunities.

The Associate Vice President will provide leadership to the academic endeavor in several critical areas, including:

- Curricular Development, including the formation of a coherent strategy, the construction of thematic pathways for curricular integration, and the engagement of faculty, both from IES and at partner schools
- Development of metrics for success of these initiatives, working closely with the AVP for Program Assessment, and developing resources related to experiential aspects of internationalization and
- Engagement of faculty with effective methodologies related to integrating diverse perspectives into the curriculum.

The AVPCI will also serve as a liaison to organizations engaged in international education (both in the US and abroad) on relevant issues related to program diversification and curricular internationalization.
About IES Abroad

Launched more than 65 years ago with one program focused on sending students to Vienna, IES Abroad has expanded, now offering over 140 courses across the globe. During that time, IES Abroad has shaped the landscape of the study abroad world by being one of the first institutions to offer customized programs, awarding scholarships since 1961, and establishing the Academic Consortium of US Colleges and Universities in 1965, the group which still provides guidance and advice to the ever growing and changing set of programs that are available.

Today, IES Abroad continues to lead the way, having been the first study abroad organization to create an educational tool to design and evaluate study abroad programs; the first to complete a 50 year longitudinal study of alumni; the first to launch a Diversity Initiative, and the first to provide direct financial aid for study abroad participants. It is into this history of setting the standard for study abroad programs that this new position is being inserted.

Students have a plethora of educational offerings to choose from when partnering with IES Abroad, including taking classes at Centers abroad, directly enrolling in courses at a local university abroad, or a hybrid of the two that the student customizes to his/her academic needs. Supplemental opportunities to take learning outside of the classroom includes optional internships, service learning placements, and course-related fieldtrips. In addition to part-time internships, IES Abroad also offers full-time summer and semester internships.

The Study Abroad Foundation (SAF), a department of IES, focuses solely on offering study abroad opportunities to university students enrolled at member universities in select Asian countries. Students are given the option to pursue traditional academic or language studies at their choice of 80 host colleges and universities in Australia, Canada, Europe, New Zealand, and the United States.

Managed by a Board of Directors who are leaders in the fields of study abroad, higher education and local, national and international business, IES Abroad is a not-for-profit that recognizes the importance of diversity in skills and backgrounds in its senior staff which is united by their shared passions and mission.

IES Abroad is headquartered in Chicago, IL and maintains a global staff of 200+ academics and faculty across the various satellite Centers. Their Chicago-based and on-site staff are all highly trained and experienced in matters of health, safety, and crisis management, setting the standard in the community in these arenas. IES Abroad has also been recognized as the “Top Study Abroad Organization” two years in a row as well as for their “Excellence in Diversity & Inclusion”, especially due to their wide-ranging scholarship and aid opportunities based on program interest and need.

IES Abroad’s commitment to the students and 250+ partner schools they serve coupled with their accolades, efforts to make study abroad programs more inclusive, and diverse educational offerings have established the organization as a leader of academic excellence in global education, a standard they will continue to advance.
The Position

Summary

Reporting to the newly arrived Vice President for Academic Programs (VPAP), the AVPCI will have primary responsibility for leading the implementation of comprehensive curricular-diversity integration and curricular internationalization. The AVPCI will work across the organization to develop a strategic framework for curricula to integrate between Centers. S/he will ensure that multiple perspectives are brought to bear on all IES courses (e.g. cultural, racial, ethnic and gender perspectives) and programs as appropriate. An additional focus will be research on creative program development, continuous improvement efforts, and the creation and support of faculty development opportunities that enhance IES.

The AVPCI will be a key member of the VP for Academic Programs’s leadership team, working closely with the other team members, and with others throughout the IES Abroad structure, both in the US and around the world. This position could require periodic travel related to the enhancement of academic programming, conference attendance, and campus visits.

Challenges and Opportunities

Internationalizing the curricula of IES Abroad programs

The AVPCI will construct thematic pathways for course integration in a variety of fields (arts, humanities, social sciences, STEM fields, etc.), and engage both IES faculty and faculty at partner schools in formulating approaches for incorporating diverse perspectives into the IES curriculum globally.

Bringing his/her experience based in the US higher education system, but also a strong knowledge of other cultures and systems, the AVPCI will have the opportunity to lead this work to support students as they expand their perspectives and understanding of the world they are joining. The AVPCI will serve as the liaison to organizations engaged in international education (both in the US and abroad) on relevant issues.

Support for changes that are already underway

The individual in this role will have the opportunity to build on the work of the recently formed task force on curriculum audit and transformation. In addition, the AVPCI will work closely with the AVP for Academic Assessment to develop metrics for measuring success of these various initiatives as well as assessing relevant outcomes. S/he will work on further enhancing the study abroad opportunities for students whose academic foci don’t currently lend themselves to participate in international educational offerings. In conjunction with colleagues in other departments, the AVPCI will also develop resources related to experiential aspects of education (e.g. internship and service-learning relationships).
The Candidate

Successful candidates for this role will meet the following essential qualifications and will have many of the competencies noted below.

Competencies & Areas of Expertise

- A strategic visionary with excellent analytical abilities
- Significant experience living and teaching in multiple countries and across cultures for extended time
- Strong strategic management skills, particularly across cultures
- Ability and enthusiasm for collaboration with all stakeholders
- Experience creating and implementing frameworks, as well as developing metrics for measuring success of these initiatives
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- A solutions-driven approach to the work
- Working knowledge of at least one foreign language is desired

Essential Qualifications

- PhD or equivalent in a relevant higher education field
- Minimum of 6-8 years of higher education experience, including teaching and/or curriculum design
- Deep knowledge of US higher education and international education, as well as broad knowledge of foreign systems of higher education in several of the countries in which IES Abroad operates Centers
- Prior line management responsibility
- Extensive knowledge of internationalization efforts in higher education
- A willingness to understand the broad range of priorities represented by the Centers located around the world
- Extensive knowledge of internationalization efforts in higher education

Location & Other Considerations

While this position will include periodic travel to Centers, partnering educational institutions, and conferences, it is essential that the AVP is headquartered out of Chicago where IES’ main office is located. There may be a need to work outside of core hours (M-F, 8.30 AM – 4.30 PM) due to time differences between Chicago and the Centers.
How to Apply

In order to apply, please submit a comprehensive CV along with a cover letter which sets out your interest in the role and encapsulates the aspects of your experience relevant to the required criteria. Please include the names and addresses of three references. References will not be approached until the final stages and not without prior permission from candidates.

The preferred method of application is by email at: IES.AVPCI@odgersberndtson.com

Contact Details

For a conversation in confidence, please contact either Partner: Margaret Plympton Margaret.Plympton@odgersberndtson.com Or Derek Wilkinson Derek.Wilkinson@odgersberndtson.com

About Odgers Berndtson

Odgers Berndtson Executive Search is a leading global executive search firm, assisting private and public sector organizations find the highest caliber people for senior management appointments across North America and internationally.

Our reputation at the top of the executive search profession is over 50 years old. With offices in over 60 cities worldwide, our experienced executive search specialists operate with absolute discretion, integrity and care, and are expert in finding exceptional individuals for challenging roles.

The firm still operates with the agility of a young company through a unique culture that puts values ahead of rules. Odgers Berndtson’s strength lies in the partnerships we develop. We form enduring relationships with the most talented people – candidates, clients, colleagues. There is a relentless drive to ensure a client and candidate experience that is exceptional. This comes from a true culture of collaboration, respect, and humility, recognizing that asking the right questions is more important than knowing the old answers.