



Position brief for the position of Vice President for Academic Programming IES Abroad

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Opportunity Overview

Vice President for Academic Programming (VPAP)

IES Abroad, one of the premier study abroad organizations in the world, seeks a creative visionary leader to work with the new Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost (EVPAAP) 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 Vice President for Academic Programming will work with the EVP to maintain IES Abroad's reputation for inclusive academic excellence in global education, while taking into account the different environment in the world today. Now that IES Abroad has completed a comprehensive curriculum review, the time is right to pursue curricular transformation, as led by this individual as "implementor in chief".

The VPAP will need to bring a focus on the strategic thinking that is required in today's complex world, but also be able to lay out a viable blueprint that will lead to success. Getting from the idea to the implementation will be critical.

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

- Program development, evaluation and continuous improvement efforts;
- Review and implementation of new and revised academic policies, and
- Management of faculty development opportunities.

The Vice President will work closely with and supervise the Associate Vice President for Program Assessment, the Associate Vice President for Curricular Internationalization, and a team of International Program Deans.

IES Abroad is seeking visionary leaders with at least 7-10 years of higher education faculty experience who have reached the rank of at least Associate Professor or equivalent, and who bring a broad knowledge of both U.S. and international higher education. A working knowledge of at least one foreign language is a plus, and experience living and working abroad for an extended period of time is preferred.



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, 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 off-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 Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, the Vice President will have primary responsibility for working with Center Directors and faculty (both internal and external) on strategic curricular developments, including leading the development of new programs and courses. S/he will drive program development, evaluation and assessment for all IES curricula. The VPAP will also review and implement academic policies, manage faculty development opportunities, and provide leadership for the International Program Deans, Center Directors and faculty members around the world. In this work, the VPAP will monitor curricular trends in higher education, as well as work with the Marketing Department to review possible program changes.

Challenges and Opportunities

Enhancing the Academic Reputation of IES Abroad

As the first incumbent to this new role, the VPAP will have the opportunity to both create and define the important accomplishments for this position. The VPAP will develop and maintain academic resources for Customized Program development and enhancement, lead projects within the Academics Department, and oversee IES Abroad's Institutional Review Board (IRB) committee. S/he will maintain a close working relationship with the Study Abroad Foundation's (SAF) leadership and assist in coordination of international student academic program development.

The VPAP will also plan and oversee the schedule of program assessments for the IES Abroad Centers, and

continuously assess Center adherence to the IES Model Assessment Practice (MAP) standards. In addition, s/he will assess potential university partnership changes, review program evaluations for continuous improvement, oversee development and implementation of CORE Programming, examine and enhance the Center's diversity plans, and make recommendations to the EVP on secondary grade appeals.

Expanding the global character of the IES Abroad experience

In addition to taking the lead on thinking about what changes should be made to existing programs, and where new programs might best succeed, the VPAP also has the opportunity to work through the Centers to further globalize the student experience. While the Centers are each particular to their own setting, the VPAP will work with the newly created Associate Vice President of Curricular Internationalization to create cross-Center programs, building on a few pilot examples that have already been put in place.

Supporting and Mentoring Faculty

In his/her work with faculty development, the VPAP will review, create and enhance faculty development opportunities, building on the current opportunities such as CARLA, Newberry, US faculty visits to Centers for teaching and/or research, faculty development seminars, short-term residencies, and visiting faculty programs. S/he will receive and review academic appeals and grievances from faculty and will lead regular review and revisions to the Faculty Handbook.



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

- Outstanding analytical ability
- Visionary academic management acumen
- Significant experience working broadly from the strategic/conceptual level to actual implementation of strategic initiatives
- Working knowledge of at least one foreign language, preferred
- Exceptional strategic thinking and management skills
- Experience living and working abroad for extended time, preferred
- Familiarity with best practices in education assessment in the higher education setting a plus

Essential Qualifications

- Minimum of 7-10 years of higher education faculty experience, with a minimum rank of Associate Professor or equivalent
- Significant administrative and supervisory experience
- PhD or equivalent in a field that's relevant to IES Abroad academic programs
- Broad knowledge of US and international higher education
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Experience working across cultures
- Ability and enthusiasm for engaging all stakeholders

Location & Other Considerations

It is essential that the VPAP is located in 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.

This position will require periodic travel related to the enhancement of academic programming, including Center assessments, conference attendance, and campus visits. The VPAP will have the opportunity to build and maintain strong working relationships with the top feeder schools for each Center, and with the Academic Council and the Curriculum Committee, made up of representatives from the members of the IES Abroad consortium group.



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.VPAP@odgersberndtson.com

Contact Details

For a conversation in confidence, please contact either Partner:

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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.





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