



FAQ's for Faculty Directors/International Education Offices

If your particular question is not one of those addressed below, please contact us directly at 1-800-541-7506 or website@semint.com , and we'll be happy to assist you.

How is Seminars International different from other short-term study abroad providers?

Seminars International is unique in having the capability to leverage over forty years of experience in creating customized faculty-led courses on seven continents. Our long-standing relationships with our international partners worldwide and deep staff expertise ensure that each and every program we help develop meets the logistical, pedagogical and intercultural demands of a highly successful international educational experience. We work to be an extension of your staff by allowing faculty to focus on the course academic content while we concentrate on the logistics.

Where is Seminars International located and in what locations does it provide faculty-led programs?

Our headquarters is in Chicago, Illinois, and we also have regional offices in Arizona and Minnesota. From these centers, Seminars International has the ability to craft your custom-designed, faculty-led, course to any international destination from Antarctica to Norway and everywhere in-between.

What services does Seminars International offer for pre-departure and in country support?

We provide you with a wide range of services grouped by the stages in your international course process: Custom Design, Pre-departure, While You're Abroad and post travel Program Evaluation. Please [click here](#) for a full list of the services we offer within each stage.

Can Seminars International add a community based learning component to a course?

Yes, we can. We will work with you to determine the best options to fulfill the academic, cultural and community based learning objectives.

What can Seminars International do to help meet our course budget needs?

We are very proud of our strong reputation for helping develop innovative pedagogical international courses with a commitment to guaranteeing the best value for our clients. We have over 40 years of experience behind our suggestions for program cost reductions and can offer a lengthy list of cost saving ways to economize on a tight budget. We provide for our clients tiered pricing levels, which are dependent on the number of participants. Faculty director benefits can include having their cost built into the price offered to each student. On the administrative side, we are the one source for all deposits and payments and work closely to ensure that your budget needs are met while satisfying your institution's requirements regarding invoicing, payments and other financial obligations.

How does Seminars International handle fluctuations in currency values?

Seminars International purchases currency futures to protect our quoted prices.

Who gives academic credit for completed coursework overseas?

The sponsoring U.S. educational institution issues the academic credit.

What group sizes can Seminars International accommodate?

We normally do not go below 15 participants in an effort to maximize group rates and we can go up to any needed group size. Our average academic group size is 20.

How can Seminars International meet the varied needs of our international academic course?

We understand that the emphasis is on the learning aspect of the study abroad course where a faculty director has a high expectation of “seeing, doing and learning”. Our on site support can include if available conference rooms, classrooms, audio/visual capabilities and internet Wi-Fi. We can also include guest lecturers, meetings with business executives, government leaders, and plant/manufacturing tours. In addition, we understand the important expectation to include a deep intercultural element in the course. We know there is so much more to developing the logistics of a successful and meaningful international course than simply hotels and transportation.

Can Seminars International assist with excursions, extracurricular activities and unique Intercultural experiences?

Absolutely! We work with you to identify and plan all aspects, not just the transportation and hotels, but also any extracurricular activities, excursions or unique intercultural experiences which might enhance the focus of the course. These events can include local cultural tours, social gatherings with overseas educators and students, or athletic or performing arts events to name just a few.

Can Seminars International work with an institution to enhance health, safety, security and risk management protocol?

We have worked with schools and institutions all over the United States to make sure each student and faculty director participating on our international programs have a procedure in place regarding health, safety, security and risk management. We are proud of our ability to be responsive to all emergency needs, wherever they may occur. Our strong network of international partners gives us access to local resources to assist with a variety of emergency situations. We are able to keep in touch with our international courses 24/7 through our emergency assistance number. [Please click here](#) to see our Health, Safety and Travel Insurance suggestions.

When should I start planning our overseas course?

We will work with your specific academic calendar. Many of the Institutions we work with teach their international courses during the month of January, May or during the summer or spring break. We highly recommend beginning the initial planning 10-13 months out, so that you can start promoting your course about eight months ahead of time. [Please click here](#) for additional details about our suggested planning timeline. [Contact us](#) to begin planning an unforgettable international study abroad course now.