

Companion Travel During Faculty-Directed Education Abroad Programs

Guiding Statement

All faculty-directed education abroad programs must maintain a two-deep leadership model, ensuring that two fully available, responsible parties are present and engaged at all times. These leaders share responsibility for student safety, academic continuity, and overall program engagement.

Faculty directors traveling with dependents or other personal obligations that limit their availability do not meet the definition of a program-dedicated leader for the purposes of the two-deep leadership model. In such cases, the program must implement measures (at the faculty member's expense) to ensure the required staffing levels and leadership presence are maintained throughout the program.

Given the intense, round-the-clock responsibilities of leading an education abroad program, family members or other companions who are not serving in an official program role are strongly discouraged from traveling with the group during official program dates. When possible, such travel should occur before or after the program.

If a faculty director's family or other companion(s) will overlap with program travel, the faculty director must provide the Pam Hendrix Center for Education Abroad with a written statement detailing the travelers, travel dates, and how their expenses will be kept separate from program funds. Under no circumstances may companion travel increase costs to students or draw on university or program resources.

Rationale

This policy helps ensure uninterrupted program leadership and support. Faculty directors must remain fully available to students to respond promptly to academic, logistical, and emergency needs throughout the duration of the program.