

Faculty-Directed Programming with *WorldStrides*

September 30, 2025



Overview

Overview

- Introductions
- Who We Are
- Our Partnership with Grand Valley State University
- Our Partnership Approach
- Development Timeline
- Next Steps
- Questions

Meet Your Presenters



Taylor Thenhaus

Program Development
Associate



Michael Saenz

Director of Campus
Partnerships



Kirsten Bartels

Faculty-Led Program
Coordinator

Who is in the Room?

Introductions

Who *We Are*

Where Education meets Exploration

- **A leading provider in education abroad**
- We believe that study abroad is for everyone, and actively create spaces of inclusion and belonging in every program.
- **Experience Where It Counts**
 - 45+ years of providing exceptional service
 - 100+ partnerships with universities in more than 50 cities with local teams to support semester, short-term, and custom programs
 - 120+ countries with international countries to support short-term, global immersions wherever your curriculum takes you

Strength in Numbers

50+

Years in Educational Travel

20K+

Custom Program Travelers in
2025

700+

Customized Programs for
Higher Education Each Year

Our Partnership with GVSU!

Partnership of 23 Years!

- In partnership with Grand Valley State University since 2002 – over 23 years!
- Over 650+ GVSU students have participated in WorldStrides (formerly ISA and TEAN programs) since 2002
- Latest initiative at GVSU (GVSU in programs)
 - Costa Rica
 - Spain
 - South Korea

Why Are We Here?

To Make Your Life Easier

A Partnership Approach

We are here to support your goals!

- Collaborate with our Team
- Tell us the dream
- Retain autonomy
- Rely on our team
- Your focus is on the curriculum
- Your focus is on the students
- Your get more time back in your classroom
- We can take care of program development
- Provide supporting tools for recruitment and funding
- On-site support
- Budget-consciousness



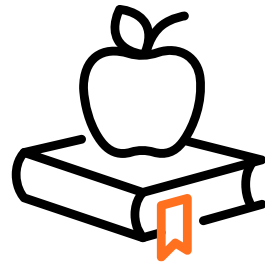
Completely Customized *Just for GVSU*

Logistics Management 360



Accommodations & Meals

- Plan programs seamlessly
- Arrange comfortable accommodations
- Coordinate meals



Academics

- Coordinate academic experiences tailored to course objectives
- Secure guest lectures
- Organize site visits
- Arrange classroom spaces
- Facilitate immersive, on-the-ground learning to bring curriculum to life



Cultural Activities/Excursions

- Enhance programs with culturally rich activities and excursions that align with academic goals
- Organize guided tours
- Facilitate hands-on local experiences
- Provide meaningful opportunities for students to engage with the destination's history, traditions, and community

Logistics Management 360



On-Site Support

- Full time or Part Time
- Lead, Collaborate, or Behind the Scenes
- Always on-call
- Language Translation
- Bookings, Entrances, Check-ins



Guides

- Professional Guides
- Self-Guided
- Academic Lense
Local knowledge



Transportation

- Public Transportation
- Private Transportation

Logistics Management 360

Before

- Dedicated program development and account managers
- Booking of all travel, accommodations, meals, and more
- Planning of academic, cultural, and social engagements
- Venue outreach for meetings, classrooms, and special events
- Marketing and recruitment support
Registration and emergency contact data collection
- Instant visa needs evaluation
Pre-departure orientation and materials

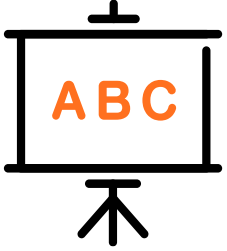
During

- Monitoring of all flights
- Ground transportation and transfers
- English-speaking local guides and staff support
- Execution of planned academic and cultural engagements
- Check-ins with your dedicated account manager
- 24/7 emergency support
Travel app with detailed itinerary, group messaging, and more.

After

- Monitoring of all departure flights for the journey home
- Gathering feedback on every program aspect
- Formal post-program check-in and audit
- Incident follow-up and insurance filing (if necessary)
- Proactive planning to develop your next program

Global Experiential Learning



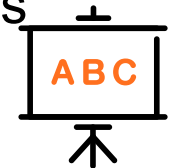
- Company Visits
- Guest Lectures
- Panel Discussion
- Strategy Challenge



- Interactive Immersions
- Local Market Immersions
- Guided City Immersion



- Service Projects
- Social Impact Experience
- Visit NGO / Non-profit organizations



• Where in World Can You Go?

THE AMERICAS

Argentina
Belize
Bolivia
Brazil
Canada
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala
Honduras
Jamaica
Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama
Peru
Puerto Rico
United States
Uruguay

EUROPE

Albania
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belgium
Bosnia &
Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Great Britain
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland

Italy
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Macedonia
Malta
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Scotland
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland

AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST

Armenia
Bahrain
Benin
Botswana
Côte d'Ivoire
Egypt
Ethiopia
Ghana
Israel
Jordan
Kenya
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mauritius

Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Oman
Qatar
Rwanda
Senegal
South Africa
Tanzania
Turkey
UAE
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

ASIA PACIFIC

Australia
Bangladesh
Cambodia
China
Fiji
French Polynesia
Hong Kong
India
Indonesia
Japan
Laos
Malaysia
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nepal
New Zealand
Philippines
Russia
Singapore
South Korea
Sri Lanka
Taiwan
Thailand
Vietnam



Risk Management

A GLOBAL NETWORK

24/7 SUPPORT:

- ✓ Tour Central
- ✓ Emergency On-Call Phone
- ✓ Ground Teams in 100+ countries with local staff
- ✓ Doctors on Call
- ✓ WorldAware

TOOLS:

- ✓ Emergency Preparedness Maps and Protocols
- ✓ Advisory Memos
- ✓ Enhanced STEP registration process for better student access to emergency information
- ✓ Satellite phones for rental
- ✓ WorldStrides Mobile App

PROMOTIONAL TOOLS

Our Toolkit Includes

- Customizable Flyer
- Social Media Assets
- Screen Template
- Presentation Template
- Custom Website



Funding Your Program (Financial Support)

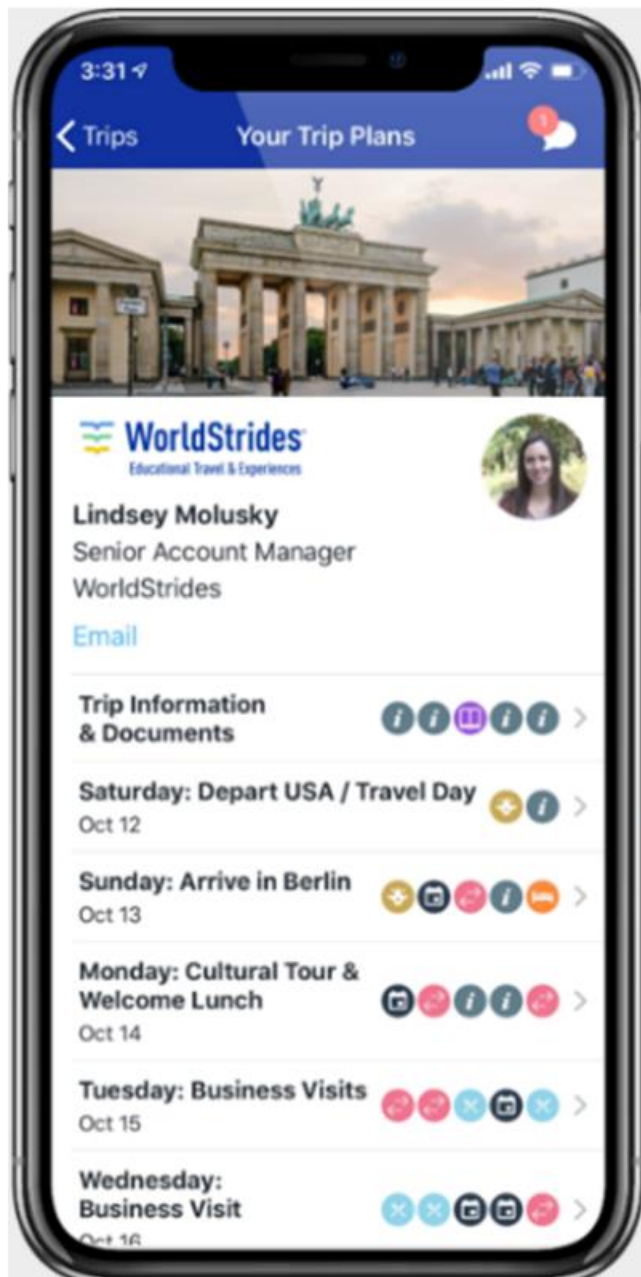
Our Toolkit Includes:

- Internal Scholarships
- External Scholarships
- Financial Assistance
- Fundraising Ideas
- Additional Funding (Content Creator Application)



WORLDSTRIDES MOBILE APP

- ✓ Day-by-Day Itinerary
- ✓ Upload critical program documents
- ✓ Push Notifications to share itinerary changes
- ✓ Emergency communication capabilities
- ✓ Hotel Links and Addresses



Group
Chat



Emergency
Documents

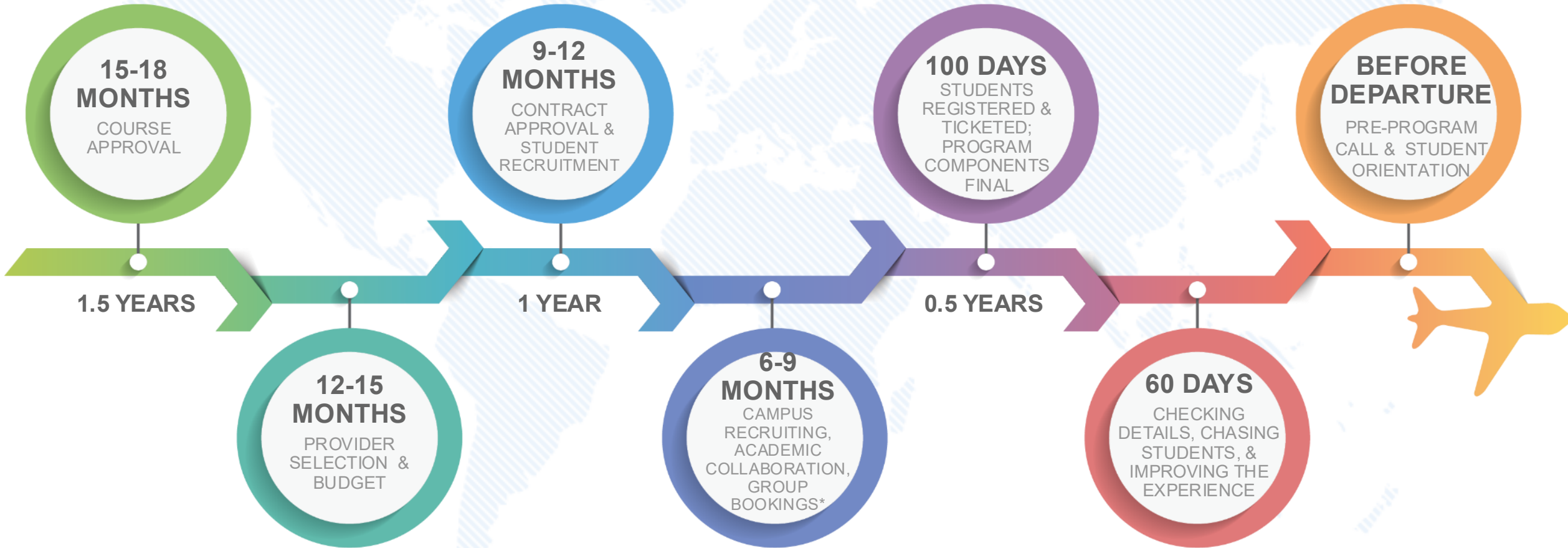


All Your Programs
In One Place



CONFIDENTIAL

TIMELINE FOR FACULTY-LED PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT



ITALY

Considerations:

- Dorms or apartments may be available for longer-term programs in Florence, Milan, and Rome.

Themes:

- History
- Art
- Religion
- Fashion
- Education

CULTURAL HIGHLIGHT: GALLERIA DELL'ACCADEMIA

Visit the magnificent marble sculptures created by Michelangelo, as well as halls filled with collections by Florentines artists. Add this tour as you explore the sights in Florence.





COLOMBIA

Considerations:

- Despite the stereotype, Colombia has become relatively safe, but practical safety considerations are essential.
- November, February, and March are the best months to visit for a combination of drier weather, fewer crowds, and better prices.
- Homestays are an immersive experience and available during summer months in Barranquilla

Themes:

- Business
- Marketing
- Healthcare
- Biology

Pairings:

- Panama
- Ecuador
- Peru

CULTURAL HIGHLIGHT: LA CANDELERIA

Take a walk through the colorful and historic La Candelaria neighborhood in Bogotá. The beautiful architecture of Plaza Bolivar, presidential house, government and ministry buildings can be seen here.

VIETNAM

Considerations:

- North (Hanoi) meets south (Ho Chi Minh City) makes for an excellent compare and contrast on its own!
- Plenty of culinary adventures

Themes:

- History
- Business & Manufacturing
- Environmental Sustainability
- International Relations

Pairings:

- China
- Singapore
- Thailand

CULTURAL HIGHLIGHT: HẠ LONG BAY

Kayak or cruise through the 1,600 islands and towering limestone pillars that make up this ethereal landmark in northern Vietnam.



PERU

Considerations:

- Homestays are available for an immersive experience (minimum two-week stay)
- Study center in Cusco—take an indigenous language lesson!
- Mid-Jan to mid-Feb is extremely rainy
- No jet lag, but be mindful of altitude sickness

Themes:

- Engineering
- Art
- Business
- Anthropology
- Biology

Pairings:

- Panama
- Colombia
- Chile

CULTURAL HIGHLIGHT: WEAVING

This craft dates back generations in the Sacred Valley. Interact with weavers preserving this ancient art and sustaining their community.





CROATIA

Considerations:

- Nearly 10% of the land area is protected, resulting in numerous national parks with extremely rich biodiversity.

Themes:

- International Relations/ Political Studies
- Conflict & Peace Studies
- History
- Economics

Pairings:

- Slovenia
- Italy

CULTURAL HIGHLIGHT: PLITVICE NATIONAL PARK

This UNESCO World Heritage Site might be the most beautiful spot in the country, featuring stunningly clear pools of water that cascade throughout the park and several miles of boardwalk to explore!

Next Steps

Best Practices for Getting Started

- Program Theme or Area of Study
- Program Goals and Objectives
- Description(s)
- Program Dates
- Airport Departure City
- Group Size Estimate
- Expectations for Accommodations and Meals
- Faculty chaperone ration (if applicable)



Contact Information

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Thank You!



WorldStrides | Higher
Education