

Building a Customized Program with GEO

Partnering with GEO

We are excited that you are interested in building a customized program with us. At Global Education Oregon (GEO) we pride ourselves on high-quality academic programs customized to meet institutional needs and

faculty interests. Our dedicated program management team ensures comprehensive vetting of international partners, extensive oversight of every program element, and excellent support every step of the way.



Benefits of Working with Us

Building a customized program for our partners is one of the most exciting things we do! Consider what you'll get by working with GEO.

Complete academic and logistical support

- On-site curricular integration
- Permanent site staff (local nationals) based at GEO Centers abroad
- Supplemental lectures and excursion design
- Classroom facilities
- Budget oversight
- Faculty and student housing

Flexible program configuration

- Programs easily tailored to faculty interest and expertise
- Multi-site options in different countries
- Programming opportunities include academic semester, summer, experiential learning, embedded international course components, spring break, J-term, credit and non-credit bearing courses, and more

Recruitment and enrollment advantages

- Digital marketing support
- Strategic recruitment in collaboration with the home campus study abroad office
- Fully integrated application system

Dedicated health, safety, and risk manager

- 24/7 Emergency Phone
- Three-tiered emergency staff support
- Required travel insurance
- Daily monitoring of world events and travel warning updates

Program Development Timeline

Planning a customized program takes vision, passion, and a great partner to help it progress to the next step! Here's a general idea of how we make it happen.

12-18 MONTHS

Connect with GEO and share your program ideas. Let's talk through what you would like to see included in your proposal from GEO, including location, dates, excursions, local faculty, housing and more.

6-12 MONTHS

Once we have the program components and budget finalized, it is time to start spreading the word on campus. GEO will help you strategize the best ways to reach your students.

3-6 MONTHS

Once you have confirmed your enrollment, your students will complete a GEO application to ensure we have all the information needed to support them on site.

3 MONTHS

Make sure you have met your minimum enrollment and start getting your group prepared to depart. Work with GEO to finalize your pre-departure materials, plan your orientation, and make sure everyone has completed their GEO applications.

1 MONTH

Invite all of your students to the pre-departure orientation and work with GEO to make sure everyone has the arrival information, packing list, and is fully briefed on cultural norms, safety and security basics, and more.

FAQs

Considering building your next customized program with GEO? Here are some helpful answers to a few of the most commonly asked questions.

Q: Do we have to pay University of Oregon tuition since GEO is a provider based at the UO?

A: No. GEO will only charge you the program fee listed in your proposal, which covers the program costs and does not include tuition. GEO will bill your home institution in one lump sum after your enrollments have been confirmed.

Q: What kind of credits do students receive on a GEO customized program?

A: Students will be registered on their home campus for a customized program. GEO will submit a grade report to your home institution enabling students to receive home institution credits for the courses they complete on the program.

Q: Does GEO only do full programs, or can we select program elements like lectures, classroom space, and excursions for an already existing program?

A: GEO is happy to work with you on whatever you need. Depending on location and your requested program elements, GEO will inquire with our network of international partners to see what we can offer you.

Q: In what countries does GEO operate?

A: We have GEO centers in the United Kingdom, Spain, and Italy. We also work with dedicated program partners at GEO sites in Accra, Ghana; Fes, Morocco; Vienna, Austria; Querétaro, Mexico; Dublin, Ireland; and Athens, Greece (to name just a few) Ask us about our extensive network of global program partners if you are interested in building a customized program in another location.

Q: What is the minimum/maximum number of students? What kind of flexibility is there after an enrollment deadline passes?

A: GEO will work with you to meet your target program price and collaborate with you on what minimum number of students we would need to participate in order to run the program and the desired price point. GEO is more than happy to collaborate after an enrollment deadline if minimum enrollment has not been met. We can work together to see if there are modifications we can make to the budget to run a program that did not meet projected enrollment targets.

Q: What if we want to provide our own (faculty/flights/guest speakers/accommodations, etc.)

A: No problem. Just let us know what program elements you would like to arrange yourself and we can remove these from our proposal.

Q: Does someone travel with our students the whole time?

A: This is dependent on location or your preference. In most cases, GEO can arrange an on-site coordinator to be with your group throughout the duration of your program, which will be included in the program fee and proposal from GEO.

Q: What if we don't want to use GEO's insurance?

A: Unfortunately, we need to include our travel insurance on all programs. GEO provides comprehensive health, safety and risk management services on all of our programs and a component of this is our ability to coordinate with our insurance provider in an emergency. Don't worry though. This is a small charge per student that will not dramatically impact your program price.

Q: How much does it cost for a two-week program?

A: Our process is tailored to fit what you are looking for and depending on location, inclusions, excursions, number of students, program costs can vary significantly. However, we pride ourselves on our collaborative program development process so we can ensure we have everything you are looking for included in your proposal and we will work hard to meet your desired price point.

Q: Does GEO arrange transportation to or from the program site before it begins or after it ends?

A: GEO does not arrange group flights or transportation to and from the program site. All transportation GEO offers is only within the program dates as requested in the proposal.

Familiarization and Funding Opportunities

Faculty-led Program Development Grants

Staff and faculty are eligible for development grants that support visits to GEO centers abroad, and exploration of customized programs. GEO awards grants (up to \$3,000) to support international travel for the purpose of developing new, faculty-led study abroad programs. Grants can help fund a visit to a single site or to multiple sites within a country or region. Grant applications are due in March for expected travel between April and December of the same year.

GEO Open Houses

Don't miss out on an opportunity to visit GEO centers during our annual open houses. Site visit participants explore the host city, meet GEO staff and on-site directors, tour GEO facilities, and observe ongoing academic programs at each location. The open houses are an opportunity for our site staff to show off all of the incredible capabilities of their site and city. Your housing, meals and all activities are covered in this two- to three-day immersion in everything our sites have to offer.

Mini Grants for Faculty

Already traveling to an international location and want to add a stop at one of our GEO centers? GEO is happy to award \$500 mini grants to support your visit to one of our centers. Mini grants can be awarded anytime throughout the year.



Participants on the customized program Digital Photography in Spain strike a pose in front of a sculpture depicting photographer Josefa Carrill (Oviedo, Summer 2018). Photo: Don Werthmann

READY TO GET STARTED?

Contact your GEO representative to share your program idea. They will help you elaborate on the program details and GEO will put together a proposal for you.

We invite you to explore more at <https://geo.uoregon.edu/build-a-customized-program>.