Academic Year and Semester (AY&S) and Summer abroad programs

The College Division of AIFS provides comprehensive programs for students wishing to study abroad for an academic year, semester or summer. Each year over 5,000 students participate in AIFS programs.

AIFS programs are all inclusive, and offered at fees affordable to the average student. Locations include Australia, Austria, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Peru, Russia, South Africa and Spain. AIFS partners with the finest colleges and universities in these countries to ensure high academic standards and a diverse range of course offerings.

Internship programs provide students the opportunity to gain valuable work experience in international settings such as Sydney, Australia; Salzburg, Austria; Cannes, France; Florence, Italy; and London, England.

Would you recommend the College Division program?

Based on 1,098 responses from 1,132 spring semester participants (at all campuses except Richmond)

- YES 93%
- NO 5%

Overall measurement

Quality control is an on-going process. To ensure that AIFS programs meet the needs of students and their home institutions, a variety of evaluation, inspection and review mechanisms are used.

Student evaluations

Students are asked to complete an evaluation before leaving campus at the end of the semester. The local Resident Director reviews all evaluations and forwards them to London and Stamford, usually with a brief report. The evaluations are read by the Director of Programs in London and the responses in each category are tabulated. The tabulated responses are compared with responses from previous semesters. The Director of Programs reviews responses with each Resident Director and, where appropriate, with the host institution. Evaluations are then forwarded to the Stamford office and are reviewed by the College Division staff.

Responses from spring 2009 semester students

Overall Experience

- Excellent 60%
- Good 33%
- Average 6%
- Poor 0%

Educational Content

- Excellent 30%
- Good 56%
- Average 11%
- Poor 1%

Cultural Activities

- Excellent 69%
- Good 25%
- Average 3%
- Poor 1%

Service while Abroad

- Excellent 76%
- Good 19%
- Average 4%
- Poor 1%
The College Division records remarks of students who say they would not or are unsure if they would recommend the program. Use of student responses is intended to identify areas in which the Stamford admissions staff, with input from local Resident Directors, can better prepare students for the reality of living and studying abroad. Evaluations from students on our summer programs are tabulated in the same way.

**Resident Directors**

AIFS always employs a local Resident Director to coordinate aspects of the program and to serve as a liaison between the students, the university, host families and AIFS. The AIFS Resident Director is a permanent employee who speaks the local language fluently, provides counseling and academic advising, arranges cultural and social activities and assists students who require medical attention.

**Would you recommend the College Division program?**

*based on 519 responses from 527 fall semester participants (at all campuses except Richmond)*

- **YES** 97%
- **NO** 2%

**Site Visits**

AIFS invites representatives from U.S. colleges and universities to participate in organized visits to its program locations. Hosted by the Resident Director and senior AIFS staff, study abroad administrators and faculty tour program and local campus facilities, visit classes and interact with student participants. Two to three site visits are arranged each semester.

**Visits by key AIFS Staff**

Senior staff from London and Stamford regularly visit program sites to review operations and consult with local staff, university representatives and students.

**Board of Advisors**

The AIFS Board of Advisors is made up of study abroad professionals from U.S. Colleges and Universities who volunteer to advise AIFS on student program management and development.
What distinguishes AIFS from other study abroad programs?

The AIFS price includes tuition, housing and meal plans. AIFS guarantees its advertised prices, providing students protection from fluctuations in currency values. AIFS also includes cultural and social activities, which serves to reduce the out of pocket expenses students will incur while abroad.

AIFS arranges round-trip air transportation for students who request it. AIFS staff meet students on arrival and provide ground transport to the program site.

AIFS programs are centrally located, providing students with easy access to campus, cultural activities, and their residence or homestay.

AIFS provides each student comprehensive medical and evacuation insurance.

With offices in London and Stamford, together with the local program office, AIFS provides an extensive support and communication network capable of dealing with any issue that may arise.

Would you recommend the College Division program?

Based on 657 responses from 664 summer semester participants (at all campuses except Richmond)

Yes 94%
No 4%

Responses from summer 2009 students

Overall Experience
Based on 657 responses

Excellent 66%
Good 31%
Average 2%
Poor 0%

Educational Content
Based on 657 responses

Excellent 60%
Good 35%
Average 5%
Poor 0%

Cultural Activities
Based on 657 responses

Excellent 68%
Good 27%
Average 2%
Poor 1%

Service while Abroad
Based on 657 responses

Excellent 82%
Good 16%
Average 1%
Poor 0%

(When less than 100% some questions were not answered)