

International Education Mission Statement

The Vision and Mission statements apply to all aspects of International Education at Ramapo College, whether it be an on-campus course, an Education Abroad program (either Ramapo-owned global seminars or a consortium program), domestic off-campus programs with an intercultural component, or co-curricular programming.

Vision: Students graduating from Ramapo College will have the inclination, knowledge, and skills to thoughtfully engage their own cultures and cultures that are not their own with respect, understanding, openness, and critical analysis.

Mission: We will create a holistic educational experience that enables our students to become literate, intentional and empowered global citizens. We endeavor to provide our students with classroom and experiential learning opportunities that will develop the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary for successful intercultural transactions. Thus, courses with an international component (including education abroad opportunities) should address as many of the following objectives as appropriate. As a whole, international programming should enable students to:

- Communicate in other languages
- Recognize the contributions and demands their culture places on other cultures
- Reflect on the cultural contexts in which they live and compare their attributes to other cultures
- Enhance their appreciation for the literature, art, music, and other artistic expressions of other cultures
- Comprehend the causes and consequences of the disparity in the global distribution of power and resources
- Experientially comprehend the reality of people whose lives are economically and politically disadvantaged and engage this reality through active forms of learning that involve services and concrete actions
- Demonstrate an understanding of how the globalized economy can impact local economies and wider geographic regions
- Analyze the conditions which produce changing migration patterns and/or environmental, health and social problems, and seek solutions or alternatives to these issues
- Understand the relationship of landscape and environment to way of life, and the implications of environmental changes for population survival, cultural identity, lifestyle, and health
- Understand the rise of the nation state and shifting international dynamics as well as their relationship to the changing nature of culture, ethnicity, religion, government, business, and other forms of identity

The following apply to Education Abroad programs only

Learning Outcomes for Education Abroad

Students who attend an Education Abroad program should accomplish one or more of the following:

- Students will enhance their proficiency in the native language
- Students will be able to draw comparisons between their own culture and one or more cultures within the country in which they study
- Students will be able to knowledgeably discuss physical, historical, artistic, religious, and/or cultural features of the country in which they study
- Students will be able to recognize and analyze regional issues and problems

Assessment Methods

For Education Abroad programs, assessment may take the form of one or more of the following:

- Pre-departure and re-entry orientation sessions (mandatory)
- Standardized tests that measure various indices of cultural sensitivity
- Research papers, case studies, and exams
- Focus groups
- Journal entries
- Course evaluation
- Portfolios
- Oral presentations