

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Government of Flanders joins the Institute of International Education's Generation Study Abroad initiative

The Government of Flanders commits to increasing the number of Americans studying in Flanders together with IIE's "Generation Study Abroad" initiative.

March 27, 2017 - The Government of Flanders has joined the Institute of International Education's Generation Study Abroad initiative to help more Americans to gain international experience through study abroad programs. This is one of more than 700 commitments announced by IIE.

IIE's Generation Study Abroad seeks to mobilize resources and commitments with the goal of doubling the number of U.S. students studying abroad by the end of the decade. Internationalization plays an important role in maintaining and strengthening the quality of our higher educational system and is necessary for guaranteeing the place of Flanders within a globalized knowledge society. The opposite movement is also relevant, given that students and teachers from abroad who study or work in Flanders also contribute to the international character of the higher educational system.

Under the new partnership, The Government of Flanders will take concrete, action-oriented steps to expand opportunities for study abroad. The Government of Flanders will launch five scholarships for the next academic year 2017-18. These five grants are exclusively reserved for American students in the frame of the existing "Master Mind" scholarship program.

"By becoming a Country Partner of IIE we hope to achieve the beneficial effects of mutual understanding and development of both societies and education systems in Flanders and the United States as well as the expansion of academic institutional cooperation and staff and student mobility" said Geert De Proost, General Delegate of the Government of Flanders to the USA.

As of January 2017, Generation Study Abroad partners to date include over 400 colleges and universities of all sizes and types across the country and around the world, as well as 19 governments, 50 education associations, more than 100 international partners, and 100 study abroad, K-12, and social network organizations who have committed to specific goals to increase the number of U.S. students studying abroad. Commitments include actions to diversity the population of students who participate in study abroad and provide additional financial resources to make this possible.

IIE launched Generation Study Abroad in the belief that the number and proportion of today's students who graduate with an educational experience abroad is far too low. Currently, fewer than 10 percent of all U.S. college students study abroad at some point in their academic career, according to the [Open Doors Report on International and Educational Exchange](#) published by IIE with support from the U.S. Department

of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Generation Study Abroad aims to grow participation in study abroad so that the annual total reported will reach 600,000 by the end of the decade.

"Globalization has changed the way the world works, and employers are increasingly looking for workers who have international skills and expertise," says Dr. Allan Goodman, President of IIE. "Studying abroad must be viewed as an essential component of a college degree and critical to preparing future leaders."

About Generation Study Abroad

IIE's Generation Study Abroad seeks to significantly increase study abroad participation by bringing employers, governments, associations, and others together to build on current best practices and find new ways to extend study abroad opportunities and resources to tens of thousands of college students whose needs are not currently served by existing programs. Generation Study Abroad will sustain an ongoing dialogue about the need for more students from all backgrounds and in all fields to gain international experience. This will include research to identify and break down barriers hindering students from studying abroad, communications to share strategies and best practices to increase study abroad, and fundraising to mobilize additional financial resources. IIE will also hold a [Summit on Generation Study Abroad](#) on October 1-3, 2017 to engage stakeholders in higher education and all commitment partners.

About the General Delegation of the Government of Flanders to the USA

The New York City based General Delegation the Government of Flanders to the USA is the diplomatic presence of Flanders, a regional government of the federal country of Belgium that enjoys full treaty making powers. Together with Flanders Investment & Trade and Visit Flanders, the General Delegation is your source of information on Flemish cultural, academic, economic, touristic, and scientific activities and exchanges in New York and the rest of the United States. We are located on the 44th floor of The New York Times Building in Midtown Manhattan and aim to be a bridge between Flanders and the United States. Learn more at www.flandershouse.org.

About the Institute of International Education

The Institute of International Education is a world leader in the international exchange of people and ideas. An independent, not-for-profit organization founded in 1919, IIE has a network of 19 offices and affiliates worldwide and over 1,200 member institutions. IIE designs and implements programs of study and training for students, educators, young professionals and trainees from all sectors with funding from government agencies, foundations, and corporations. IIE also conducts policy research and program evaluations, and provides advising and counseling on international education and opportunities abroad.

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