Executive Summary, The 50% Plan, UC San Diego
Achieving 50% Participation in Education Abroad

UC San Diego is proud to be a leader in international education, both nationally and within the University of California system. With our broad and varied range of education abroad opportunities, we have developed a tradition of education abroad, and are proud to have sent over 19,000 UC San Diego students abroad in the first 50 years of the campus. We know that each year, some students choose to come to UC San Diego because of our education abroad tradition.

For the past five years, the percentage of our students who have an education abroad experience during their time at UC San Diego has ranged between 17% and 22%. Even with the addition of the Global Seminars in summer, 2008, our participation rate has held at 22% for the last few years. Yet national participation numbers in study abroad have increased by approximately 16% in the same time period. We know that a global education is imperative for all 21st century university graduates. To work toward achieving this “global education for all” we have developed a specific plan to achieve our goal.

That goal, endorsed by Chancellor Fox, is to increase to 50% the number of our students participating in education abroad while they are at the university. To this end, in the fall of 2010, we codified a plan that will take us to 50% participation within the next ten years. Developed by the Programs Abroad Office staff, in collaboration with the Dean of International Education and the Faculty Directors for Programs Abroad, the 50% Plan identifies specific priorities, strategies and deadlines for our work toward the goal, along with campus and other partners, and resources needed for our success. As part of the plan, we also attempt to determine the yield we would get from implementation of each strategy.

The 50 Plan encompasses the following topics, programs and constituents:
Academic Integration
Admissions
Advising/Outreach
Alumni
Assessment
Cross Cultural Preparation
Education Abroad Program
Faculty
Financial Aid and Scholarships
Global Seminars
Human Resources/Staffing
International Education/International Center
Opportunities Abroad Program
Parents
Returnees/Reciprocity Students
Technology
Work, Internship, Volunteer Opportunities
Implementation of the plan involves expanding our existing programs and services to currently underrepresented groups of students in education abroad (STEM students, males, first generation college), strengthening relationships with our liaisons and partners throughout campus (department and college advisors, Admissions, Registrar, and Financial Aid Office staff), and actively engaging our faculty allies in appropriate strategies and efforts. For example, beginning in Fall, 2011, we plan to actively promote and launch education abroad advising by academic discipline. To leverage the strong relationships we already have with advisors in the colleges and departments, we have launched a site visit program for these staff members. In exchange for partial funding from Programs Abroad for these visits, the advisor returns to campus and must complete a report on the visit and implement an action plan, with the support of their supervisor, that will get more students abroad from their unit. And, in addition to drawing more faculty into our cohort of Global Seminars instructors, we plan to develop options for our faculty to teach in partnership programs with study abroad providers, and to integrate options for our faculty to work with students who are doing academic internships and field research abroad.

The campus has recently launched several initiatives that will help move us toward our goal. In Fall, 2010, a new Global Health minor was offered to undergraduates as part of a larger campus Global Health Initiative. One of the minor requirements is that students complete a field experience related to global health, and many students will do this abroad. The campus has also created a website that highlights academic programs and courses with a sustainability theme, and education abroad opportunities will be included in this list. And, in Fall, 2011, the International Center will launch a Global Leadership Certificate. Students will complete a variety of projects, experiences, and reflective papers to earn the certificate. One of the recommended experiences, of course, will be a study, work, intern, research, or volunteer program abroad.

Through our survey in Fall, 2008, our alumni have confirmed the value of their education abroad experiences. 51% of respondents indicated that study abroad influenced their choice of career, and 39% reported that study abroad helped them get their first job out of college. Over 90% of respondents valued the cross-cultural and language learning experiences for both personal and professional reasons. We must provide these opportunities to even larger numbers of our students, and the 50% Plan sets us well on that path.

The complete 50% Plan may be found at http://programsabroad.ucsd.edu/pao/.