KAHAL Study Abroad Provider Partnerships

KAHAL’s growing number of partnerships with study abroad providers present immense opportunities to collaborate and enhance the experience of students studying abroad. Below are some examples of ways that KAHAL has partnered with study abroad providers in the past.

Co-Sponsored Marketing

Co-Branded Resources
KAHAL has spent the last six years developing relationships with Jewish communities in 120 cities and 60 countries worldwide. We’ve used this field research to develop Jewish Community Resource Guides for 25 cities and continue to create more content each semester. KAHAL has worked with providers to tailor the content for specific study abroad programs, which providers have then used at campus visits and study abroad fairs to recruit more Jewish students. Examples of Semester at Sea’s Jewish Life at Sea and CRCC Asia’s Jewish Community Resource Guide are attached. KAHAL also features these providers on our website as flagship partners.

Sponsored Content
For the past year, KAHAL has partnered with GoAbroad.com to publish a series of student articles and blogs to help prospective Jewish study abroad students decide where to study and which program to attend. The articles are written by a KAHAL alum and often highlight KAHAL study abroad provider partners. Articles include:

- 6 Best Cities for Instant Jewish Community While Studying Abroad
- 7 Best Resources to Share with Jewish Students Traveling Abroad
- 7 Off the Beaten Path Locations for Jewish Students to Study Abroad
- Heritage Travel: What it is & How it Can Benefit You
- 7 Things to Know Before Studying Abroad as a Jewish Student
- How to Find Community During Religious Holidays While Abroad

Statistics for the first five articles are below:

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Scholarship Programs
KAHAL often receives scholarship requests from students worldwide, however we haven't been able to provide scholarships without the support of study abroad providers. In Fall 2018, KAHAL and CRCC Asia co-sponsored a fully funded scholarship for a Jewish student to intern abroad for the summer program, and we received over 50 applicants for one scholarship spot. In Spring 2019, KAHAL and Connect 123 also co-sponsored a fully-funded scholarship with ten runner-up awards, which received a similar number of applicants. In addition to the scholarship, the winners and program ground staff will receive specialized support from KAHAL’s staff to help facilitate meaningful Jewish experiences on the ground this summer. We have also seen some programs offer program fee discounts or waived application fees for KAHAL students.

In Country Programs
Student Experiences
KAHAL’s network of more than 1200 local Jewish community partners worldwide provide a unique opportunity for students and faculty to engage with local cultures and people. KAHAL can arrange for Jewish heritage tours, home hospitality, or meetups with local students to help study abroad students immerse themselves in their new country’s culture. These experiences can be tailor made for each program site, and KAHAL can work with site directors or faculty to arrange for these encounters. For example, KAHAL helped a Semester at Sea Intercultural Communications course connect with the caretaker of the 12th century synagogue in Cochin, India, providing with a meaningful encounter for all.

Student Involvement Fairs and Orientation
KAHAL staff and student Global Ambassadors have joined student involvement fairs and orientation meetings to inform students about KAHAL’s resource network. Students have been able to sign up for KAHAL’s online platform and learn about the opportunities available to them, which has been a springboard to further involvement throughout the semester. At the DIS Copenhagen involvement fair, KAHAL Global Ambassadors share a table with the local Chabad Rabbi, which enables students to connect with an additional local resource.

Field Building
KAHAL has been working increase the dialogue about religious identity in study abroad, so we can utilize the best practices we’ve learned to help students of all faiths have meaningful experiences while abroad.

Conference Presentations
KAHAL is interested in co-presenting with study abroad providers at various industry conferences, like NAFSA, the Forum, or Diversity Abroad. In March 2019, KAHAL partnered with Cal Lutheran University and Semester at Sea for a presentation about utilizing strategic partnerships to boost student engagement.

Education for International Education Professionals
In November 2018 KAHAL ran its first webinar on religious identity in study abroad for 50 international education professionals. KAHAL is able to provide customized training for program staff to help them better meet their students needs.

NAFSA MIG
KAHAL is helping to spearhead the creation of a NAFSA Jewish Community Member Interest Group (MIG). The Jewish Community MIG will have a dual purpose of providing:

- A support system for international education professionals of the Jewish faith;
- Professional development resources for international education professionals supporting students’ Jewish identities while studying abroad

The group will also seek to engage in inter-faith, field-wide dialogue about of religious identity in the field of international education. KAHAL is actively seeking professionals from study abroad provider organizations to join the MIG leadership, and invites all interested NAFSA members to sign the petition to help make the MIG a reality.