

Demystifying NAFSA

Jennifer Evanuk
February / March 2024

This is shared as part of the activities organized by the [U.S. Embassy in Greece](#), in cooperation with the [U.S. Embassy in Cyprus](#) and the [Tipping Point](#), funded through a Study Abroad Engagement Grant from [U.S.A. Study Abroad](#) within the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State.

Structure

- + Nearly 10,000 attendees - very large so must plan meetings in advance!
- + Expo hall, workshops, sessions, open dialogues, keynote speakers, special events, networking receptions
- + Most attendees are international education administrators and representatives from related organizations and vendors. Fewer government officials, faculty, senior university leaders.
- + Enhance connections in the field: find your Knowledge Community (KC) or Member Interest Group (MIG) with sessions, open meetings, workshops, and other programs tailored to specific communities.
- + Learn about the latest innovations and professional development trend: focus on workshops, sessions and posters related to your interests. Also visit the NAFSA Bookstore for the latest resources and publications.
- + Develop institutional partnerships: review the online exhibitor listings and visit the International Education Expo, especially during dedicated expo hours

Preparation

- + <https://www.nafsa.org/nafsa-2024-annual-conference-expo/how-prepare-nafsa-2024>
- + Preconference, a virtual orientation available in early May
- + Orientation for international attendees on site at the conference on Monday, May 27, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm.
- + On-site first-timers orientation on Monday, May 27, 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- + Additional information to be announced by NAFSA

Planning in Advance

- + Use online planner and conference app
- + <https://nafsa2024.eventscribe.net>
- + Start scheduling meetings 3-4 weeks in advance
- + Through conference planner and app, contact other attendees to arrange meetings
- + Be strategic - goes back to partnership strategy
- + *What types of universities do you want to partner with? For what purpose? What do you have to offer and what are you seeking? What do you want to get out of the conference?*

Maximizing the Expo Hall

- + Create schedule for booth coverage so representatives can also participate in conference sessions/events
- + Think about how to outfit the booth - vertical displays, tablecloth, giveaways
- + Have at least one table and two chairs for meetings
- + Postcards and QR codes to websites with useful information about each university and Greece in general
- + Schedule meetings at the booth through a calendar app (e.g. Calendly)
- + Host an event at your booth (happy hour, Greek treats) to draw a crowd
- + Browse other booths as well!

Recommended Sessions

- + Workshop: Money Matters: Strategic Resource Stewardship and Revenue Creation in Internationalization, Monday, May 27
- + Workshop: Building Bridges: Exploring the Art of International Partnerships, Monday, May 27
- + Workshop: A Primer on the U.S. Educational System, Tuesday, May 28
- + Learning to Navigate Uncertainty: Strategic Risk Management in International Education, Wednesday, May 29
- + The New Security Landscape for Education Abroad: The Relevance of NSPM-33, Wednesday, May 29
- + Innovative Virtual Exchange Approaches to Foster Global Citizenship and Engagement, Wednesday, May 29
- + Beyond Borders: COIL, Micro-credentials, and Global Employability Skills, Wednesday, May 29
- + Financial Aid Basics for Study Abroad, Wednesday, May 29
- + Innovations in Study Abroad for Health Professions, Wednesday, May 29
- + Poster Fair: Crisis Management in International Education, Wednesday, May 29
- + Poster Fair: Model Practices and Insights in Education Abroad, Wednesday, May 29
- + Poster Fair: Updates on Country and Regional Higher Education, Wednesday, May 29

Recommended Sessions

- + Developing and Restructuring an International Education Office, Thursday, May 30
- + Community-Engaged Partnerships for Global Learning: Connecting Minnesota and Kenya, Thursday, May 30
- + Advancing Global Competencies and Teaching Excellence: Colombia-U.S. Partnership, Thursday, May 30
- + Generation Z and Study Abroad Decision-Making: Meeting the Needs of Today's Students, Thursday, May 30
- + The Price of Education Abroad: Equitable and Inclusive?, Thursday, May 30
- + Community Dialogue: Planning Strategically for Comprehensive Internationalization, Thursday, May 30
- + Literacy Beyond Borders: A Global Partnership Between U.S. Preservice Teachers and Argentine K-12 Students, Thursday, May 30
- + Poster Fair: Increasing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion In International Education, Thursday, May 30
- + Reimagining a Culture of Peace and Sustainability Through Virtual Exchange, Friday, May 31
- + Leading for the Future: Strategic Considerations for Education Abroad, Friday, May 31
- + Around the World: Comparative Approaches to Education Abroad Health & Safety, Friday, May 31
- + Many other sessions pertaining to trends and practices in education abroad program development, student support, and risk & safety will give perspectives from U.S. education abroad officers

Ways to Network at the Conference

- + Visit a community center where NAFSA's knowledge communities feature community dialogues around hot topics and trends.
- + Visit the Big Easy Studio and participate in fun activities and learn more about the host city, New Orleans.
- + Explore the International Education Expo. There is nothing else like this global market place that features over 400 exhibitors.
- + Visit with presenters at the Poster Fairs on Wednesday and Thursday, 10:30 to noon in the Poster Fair area of the Expo Hall.
- + Attend a Member Interest Group meeting and meet people with similar interests.
- + Volunteer: This a great way to network and also receive discounts on conference registration. More information about volunteering available soon.
- + Connect with attendees before and during conference via the NAFSA 2024 mobile app (available in May).

Delegation meeting space

- + Can use the International Education Leadership Knowledge Community Center as a meeting space if needed.