Promoting the IUHPFL to Guardians

Guardians may consider the thought of sending their students abroad for five to six weeks daunting. The Program Fees of the IUHPFL may also discourage some families, though the costs compared to other study abroad programs of equal length and quality are much higher. The IUHPFL recommends sharing the following information.

The History and Tradition of the Program
The IUHPFL began in 1962 and has a well-established history at Indiana University, Bloomington (IUB). The IUHPFL is proud to have had more than 7,000 participants in its fifty-plus years of existence.

The IUHPFL’s Relationship with Indiana University
As a unit of the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs (OVPIA), the IUHPFL is well advised and supervised through OVPIA policies and procedures. The IUHPFL reports directly to the Office of Overseas Study (OVST) at IUB, under the direction of Associate Vice President for Overseas Study, Kathleen Sideli. Additionally, the IUHPFL has its own Advisory Committee, comprised of IUB faculty and staff as well as high school teachers. The Advisory Committee meets once a year to keep the program abreast of current practices in the field of Study Abroad and to assess the effectiveness of current IUHPFL procedures.

The Safety of Program Sites
Given that the IUHPFL is a unit of OVPIA, the program stays well informed about safety issues in the six countries in which the program maintains sites. Some guardians worry about student safety in Mexico. In 2011, as a proactive measure, the IUHPFL moved the program from San Luis Potosi to Mérida, Mexico. Mérida, located on the Yucatan Peninsula, was nominated by the United Nations as one of the safest cities in the world.

The Value of the IUHPFL
Participation in the IUHPFL has many benefits which carry over to the guardian and family. While students and their parents have to make a significant financial investment, it is by comparison much less expensive than competing programs. The IUHPFL is committed to making the program as affordable as possible and manages its resources efficiently.

Financial assistance is offered based on need and merit to help students take advantage of this unique opportunity. It is the IUHPFL’s goal to continuously improve the quality of the IUHPFL and give as much funding to its students as possible.

1. **Financial Benefits**
   - On average, IUHPFL alumni place into the fifth semester of foreign language instruction at IUB*
   - The IUHPFL should be considered a long-term investment, given, on average, IUHPFL alumni bypass on average up to 6 credit hours of university instruction*

*based on research done at Indiana University, Bloomington
2. Lifelong Benefits
Along with tuition dollars saved, there are, of course, the intangibles that come from an experience abroad:
⇒ Increased confidence, maturity and independence
⇒ Greater perspective and broadened world view
⇒ Greater sense of self
⇒ Speaking a second language is a marketable skill and enables world travel
⇒ Friendships that often last a lifetime

Financial Assistance
⇒ Over the past five program cycles, more than 55 percent of students received financial aid, ranging from $250-1,500 per student.
⇒ Additional funds are available for some program sites and may depend on the language and high school.
⇒ Financial assistance provided rose from $44,750 in 2009 to $57,300 in 2014. The IUHPFL is committed to add more funding every year.

The IUHPFL Website
Iuhonorsprogram.org contains much information, including factsheets, photos, alumni reports and videos. A dedicated “Guardian Section” discusses important subjects such as student safety and health and provides helpful tips.
⇒ Informational materials, including factsheets, bookmarks, posters, PowerPoint and video provide background information.

Open House/Conferences/School Events
Many teachers are pressed for time. Something as simple as handing out a flyer or bookmark and mentioning the benefits of the IUHPFL experience to guardians helps spread the word. Guardians who consider sending their student to a study abroad should be aware of the IUHPFL, especially since it is dedicated to Indiana high school students.
⇒ Teachers may want to present (or hand out) materials about the IUHPFL to prospective guardians during an Open House and/or Parent/Teacher conferences.
⇒ IUHPFL alumni may volunteer to support teachers and share their experiences during these events.
⇒ In some instances, after school/evening meetings with prospective IUHPFL guardians may be warranted. Alumni may be a great resource to support the event, or perhaps even the Director of the IUHPFL.

For Small Schools
⇒ Smaller schools may want to collaborate with nearby school and pool resources and events to promote the IUHPFL.