

# Utilizing Wiki for Study Abroad

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# What is a wiki?

- A Wiki is a website developed collaboratively by a community of users, allowing any user to add and edit content.
- Can be open to anyone or be restricted to select users.

Examples: Wikipedia, Wikispaces, and Wikitravel

# Supplement Advising

- Create a wiki page for all featured U of M study abroad programs.
- Used basic template with headings.
- Invite students (via email) who have participated in programs to provide information they believe would be useful for future participants.
  - How to get there, what to pack, how to prepare for course work, what to see, where to eat, getting around the country, culture, living with a host family, images, maps, etc.
  - Students can also add headings/topics on the page.

# Supplement Advising

- Offer “scholarship hours” as an incentive for students to make a meaningful contribution.
- Study Abroad Staff monitors the content.
  - “Watching Function”
- Link on each program’s page on the “official” as a supplement to the “official” program information.

# Example: Japan Summer Program

[Program Page](#)

[Study Abroad Wiki](#)

[Wiki Home](#)

# Organize Student Volunteers

- U of M awards over 200 study abroad scholarships per academic year.
- Each recipient required to provide 10 volunteer hours directly to study abroad office.
  - Study abroad fair, orientation (incoming & outgoing), exchange student airport pickup, etc.
- Approximately 300 or more students need to complete their hours at any giving time.

# Organize Student Volunteers

- Previously organized event volunteers through email which was inefficient.
  - Email all students who need to complete their volunteer hours.
  - Would receive dozens of responses which made it difficult to keep track of.
- Created a volunteer sign-up page and provide event instructions on the study abroad wiki page.
  - Email all eligible volunteers with link to the wiki page and instructions on how to sign up.
  - Provide instructions and information regarding the event.

# Scholarship Review Process

- Previously six to eight scholarship committee would review 200 – 300 applications.
- Meet and go through each application, one at a time, to decide a rating.
- Time consuming and panelists would weigh heavily on GPA.



# New Scholarship Review Process

- Expanded the Scholarship Committee to ten or more members.
- Each member would be assigned a co-panelist.
  - The two panelists would be assigned no more than 50 applications.
  - a report with their applications.

# Scholarship Review Process

- Meet with Co-panelists to decide final ratings.
- Administrator allows panelist to compare and discuss ratings at the committee meeting.
- Final ratings for each applicant are agreed upon.

# Available Wiki Software

- Institutional – “UM Wiki”
- Google Sites & Google Docs
- Wikispaces.org – Educational Wiki
- MediaWiki – Used by Wikipedia and Wikitravel

Questions?

Thank you!

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