Seminar for German Administrators in International Education 2023
Program Description

The seminar „Managing Risk for International Exchange in Times of Change and Crisis“ will provide participants with both an introduction and overview of the international education landscape in the United States as well as an opportunity to take a deep-dive into particular current issues of interest in the field.

Through visits to both a large public land grant university and a small private college, administrators will be introduced to the ways that regulatory and risk-related elements of international education affect US universities’ internationalization goals. Topics will include, but not be limited to, the challenges of research and exchange partnerships in an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape, regulatory and financial issues associated with international student recruitment and enrollment, the US perception of ‘duty of care’ and student health and safety on education abroad programs, the financial landscape in which US universities operate, and more. Similarities and differences in approaching these topics at US. and German universities within their cultural and administrative framework as well as best-practice models will be discussed with the German participants.

Among others, the seminar will address the following questions:

- What criteria should US and German universities use in creating or sustaining international partnerships and collaborations—either for student exchange or scholarly/scientific cooperation?
- What challenges to such partnerships exist in the US context due to geopolitical and other challenges?
- Cultural differences (underlying values) between Germany & US in handling risk management
- How do the different systems overcome crises and how do these fall within the context of further mobility trends?
- What financial challenges do US internationalization efforts face, and how do those challenges affect US universities’ strategic engagements abroad?

Administrators from universities in the state of Kentucky as well as risk managers in international higher education from other US universities will serve as presenters and facilitators during this week-long seminar. The seminar will also provide participants with the opportunity to network with each other and with US administrators in both formal and informal settings and include cultural enrichment experiences to introduce them to the broader cultural context of this region of the country.

The University of Kentucky is a public land-grant research university in Lexington, Kentucky. It is the institution with the highest enrollment in the state of Kentucky, with over 31,500 students in the fall of 2021. It comprises 16 degree granting colleges, the Lewis Honors College, and the Graduate School. It is classified as an R1 doctoral university with very high research activity. The University of Kentucky International Center leads internationalization efforts across the university. Led by the Associate Provost for Internationalization, it is comprised of units including: Education Abroad & Exchanges; Global Health Initiatives, International Health, Safety & Security; International Partnerships & Research; and International Student & Scholar Services. For further information, you can do a virtual campus tour here.