The purpose of these funds is to:

**Strengthen MSU’s study abroad programs through the creation of a professional position of Director of Education Abroad.**

The position will fill a critical leadership gap between the Study Abroad Coordinator, who manages MSU study abroad programs, and the Vice Provost for International Education. The proposed Director would be a professional position, filled by a highly experienced study abroad professional, preferably with a terminal academic degree.

Note that the budget above would provide for 1.5 years of funding for salary and benefits and anticipated national search costs. Funding beyond this period would result primarily from increased study abroad program income, although partial ongoing support from the Office of the Provost would likely be needed.

The Return on Investment from these expenditures will be:

- **To fulfill the education abroad objectives in the Five Year Strategic Vision,**
  “III.G. Students will have increasing opportunities to participate in international experiences and participation in education abroad programs will increase.”

- **To promote student recruitment and retention by expanding study abroad opportunities for MSU students,**
  Study abroad options are an increasingly important feature students consider in selecting a university in the U.S., especially more affluent non-resident students. Study abroad information sessions during MSU Fridays are heavily attended, indicating strong appeal to prospective students. 8% of 08-09 senior survey respondents say that MSU study abroad options were an important consideration in selecting MSU.

- **To integrate study abroad programs more deeply into the curriculum,**
  This will be achieved by engaging the faculty more actively in study abroad programs, expanding short-term faculty led study abroad programs, and developing new study abroad options appropriate for specific disciplines, e.g. engineering, sciences, nursing, etc.

- **To strengthen health and safety guidelines for MSU study abroad programs,**
  **providing for a safer experience for students and decreasing liability for MSU,**
  Increasing health and safety of study abroad programs is an issue of growing importance nationally. The proposed Director of Education Abroad is a cornerstone of a strong study abroad health and safety program.
Study Abroad Director – Questions & Answers

1. **What is the study abroad income? Is that money from a special fee paid by participating students?**
   (Norm Peterson) Study abroad income includes application fees paid by students upon application, and administrative fees paid as part of the program cost.

2. **Have any figures been discussed with the Provost and is there a commitment of support?**
   (Norm Peterson) Yes, the Provost has agreed in principal to support 0.5 FTE of the Study Abroad Director position after OTO funding ends, contingent on a review of performance.

3. **What is the current volume of study abroad trips and is there a net profit from those?**
   (Norm Peterson) Study abroad volume includes both students enrolling individually in tuition-based semester and academic year exchange and fee-based study abroad programs, and students taking part in faculty-led group trips. For the current academic year 220 students enrolled in semester and academic year programs and 70 students took part in six group programs, making a total of 290 students. For the 09-10 academic year the programs generated $55,000 over direct expenses and $30,000 net profit after OIP overhead costs (down about $25,000 net profit from the previous year due to somewhat lower enrollments and very large unanticipated currency exchange losses due to the devaluation of the U.S. dollar).

4. **Given the answer to #3, how many students would need to participate to fund a major portion of the new expenses?**
   (Norm Peterson) As the above figures indicate, current program levels would allow OIP to fund a significant portion of the expenses for the new position, especially if the major currency losses experienced this year can be avoided, although it would require operating very close to the margin. An increased enrollment of 60 students in OIP fee-based study abroad programs (which generate $750 -- $1,000 per student) would provide sufficient income to fully fund 0.5 FTE of the new position.