School of Record

Let Gateway be your partner in establishing and managing your School of Record relationship.

Education abroad programs attended by U.S. students are often organized by independent educational organizations or program providers. However, many of these organizations are not recognized by national or regional higher education accrediting commissions. To award credit to students for work completed off campus, most institutions require an official transcript from an accredited institution. Non-accredited organizations may partner with an accredited institution so that the latter may issue transcripts, so becoming the School of Record (SOR). An SOR enables students to transfer academic credit easily from abroad, even when the educational program they are attending is not itself accredited.

At Gateway, we support educational organizations seeking to establish an SOR relationship and accredited institutions seeking to provide SOR services.

Educational organizations that generally require an SOR include:

- Non-accredited education abroad program provider organizations.
- Independent language schools.
- Private educational institutions not recognized by a higher education accrediting commission or governing body.
- Independent field schools or operations.

Benefits of a School of Record Relationship

SOR relationships provide benefits to all involved: the organization providing instruction, the institution providing the School of Record transcript, and most importantly the student, who can more readily receive academic credit for work completed abroad.

For the Organization Providing Instruction

- An SOR relationship enables organizations to offer quality-assured transfer credit.
- An SOR relationship supports increased enrollment as students learn of easy and vetted credit transfer.
- Association with an accredited SOR augments the prestige and reputation of organizations through rigorous review of courses and offerings.

For the School of Record

- Providing an SOR transcript advances an institution’s visibility and reputation and generates revenue through contracted service fees.
- Providing an SOR transcript allows an institution to assert quality control over instruction provided abroad.
- SOR faculty gain valuable experiences in assuring the credit-worthiness of partner organization’s courses.

For the Student

- Access to an SOR transcript enables expanded access to high-quality international programming that once may have been off limits.
- Access to an SOR transcript greatly simplifies the credit transfer process from an organization abroad.
Our Services

Gateway is distinguished by its expertise in international higher education and its understanding of the principles and processes that go into the creation and management of SOR relationships. We understand what is needed, how to initiate new SOR relationships, how to administer existing relationships, and how to use SOR relationships more innovatively to increase student and faculty mobility, campus internationalization, and institutional effectiveness. Gateway provides services that span the full spectrum of School of Record relationships.

- Referrals & Recommendations
- Contract Negotiations
- Developing Academic & Operational Protocols
- Transcripts & Credit Transfer Processing
- Assessment Reporting & Onsite Evaluations
- Training & Professional Development
- Communications & External Relations

Getting Started

At Gateway, we understand that each institution is unique and has its own needs, and that is why our services are customized to accommodate differences in institutional culture, size, and scope. The process is straightforward. Simply select those Gateway services that best meet the needs of your organization or institution.

Referral Services
Gateway can act as a referral service, leveraging our wide network of college and university contacts from which organizations can build a School of Record relationship, or our network of program and instructional provider organizations for potential Schools of Record seeking a partner.

Development Services
Gateway can assist in designing, building, and launching an SOR relationship. Gateway can provide direct support in building a sustainable SOR relationship, to include contract negotiation and the development of essential systems and structures to ensure smooth implementation.

Management Services
Gateway can become a full partner in initiating, building, and managing your School of Record relationship. This includes assisting with continuous oversight and evaluation processes.

Our Team

Gateway works with experienced international professionals who bring extensive knowledge of School of Record relationships. Led by Drs. Scott Blair and Jeremy Geller, and supported by a team of industry professionals, Gateway will assign a team of experts as needed to meet your goals.

Scott Blair, Ph.D.
A senior international education leader with 30 years’ experience in education abroad, Dr. Blair provides expertise in programmatic assessment, standards compliance, and academic management and quality assurance within SOR relationships.

Jeremy Geller, Ph.D.
Dr. Jeremy R. Geller is a senior international education leader with broad experience in liberal arts, comprehensive, and research-intensive institutional contexts, having devised and led programs, obtained grants, built administrative structures, and managed consortia and robust SOR relationships.

For more information on these services, please visit www.gatewayinternational.org/schoolofrecord