



American Higher  
Education Alliance



# American Higher Education Alliance (AHEA) and ISEP Study Abroad Strategic Partnership Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## What is American Higher Education Alliance?

American Higher Education Alliance, or AHEA, is a non-profit organization founded with the mission to drive equity in higher education by connecting the global community through international collaboration and learning experiences. Through partnerships with colleges, universities and higher education serving organizations, we contribute to the development of future leaders worldwide through internationalized education, lifelong learning, and universal credentialing. AHEA currently has members from 200 institutions in 27 countries.

## What is the purpose of the strategic partnership between AHEA and ISEP?

AHEA and ISEP share mutual goals and we are excited to partner together to amplify international collaboration opportunities for the ISEP Member and Affiliate community. Together, we will focus on furthering international engagement, creating affordable international learning experiences through virtual courses, and providing professional development opportunities for faculty and academic leaders. These will be accomplished through mentoring, special programs, and the use of the InspirED™ platform provided by AHEA.

## Do I have to be a member of AHEA to participate in the benefits offered to ISEP Members and Affiliates?

Yes. ISEP Members and Affiliates must join AHEA in order to take advantage of exclusive benefits such as using the InspirED platform, participating in the [AHEA+ISEP Academy](#) and more.

## What membership levels are available, and what does it cost to join AHEA?

AHEA has two membership levels, individual and institutional. Up to 30 people from a single institution may join at the individual level. At 31 members or more, we consider this an institutional level membership.

Individual *and* institutional memberships to AHEA are **complimentary for 2022**. That means instructors, international officers, and academic administrators from any institution can enjoy exclusive benefits for free, all year.

Beginning January 1, 2023, individual memberships will remain complimentary. The institutional level membership will cost a nominal fee of 10 cents (USD) per user, per month, or institutions may apply for the InspirED Educators Grant to determine if they qualify to continue their membership on a complimentary basis.

## What are the benefits of joining AHEA?

AHEA provides our members with a variety of benefits, including

- Collaboration and networking on an international level
- Professional development resources
- Benchmarking and data services
- Grants and scholarships to assist with professional collaboration and engagement
- Use of the InspirED™ platform for creating and teaching courses, certificates and curriculum

A more detailed explanation of these benefits may be found at <https://www.ahealliance.org/ISEP>

## Are there any additional benefits for ISEP Members and Affiliates that join AHEA?

Yes! We are pleased to offer individuals and institutions from the ISEP community these additional benefits:

### ***AHEA+ISEP Academy***

The [AHEA+ISEP Academy](#) is an exclusive program that provides structured mentoring and best practices provided by virtual exchange experts. Working within a small cohort of ISEP Academy Fellows, you will be matched with collaborators and mentored through the process of designing a COIL/virtual exchange course using the InspirED platform. Topics in this 8-week Academy include an overview of the COIL methodology; the virtual exchange course planning process, including what barriers to anticipate and how to overcome them; how to use the InspirED platform to collaborate and develop your course; additional tools and technologies to make your virtual exchange an engaging experience for your students; and an individual review of and feedback on your course syllabus, identified learning outcomes and activities. Due to limited space, this exclusive benefit requires an application process for the AHEA+ISEP Academy, which is offered in the Spring and Fall terms each year.

### ***ISEP Community Forum***

Exclusively for faculty and administrators from ISEP institutions, this discussion forum provides a space for ISEP Members and Affiliates to brainstorm virtual collaborative coursework, discuss methodology, share research interests, seek support from ISEP, and participate in research surveys. The ISEP Community Forum is moderated by ISEP staff.

### ***Teach Online Courses through Blended™ Learning Management System***

AHEA offers every individual faculty member the opportunity to teach one course per term to an unlimited number of students *for free* through our Blended™ LMS in the InspirED platform. ISEP individual faculty members, however, may teach *two courses for free* in Blended, each

term, to an unlimited number of students. This provides the perfect opportunity for you to add a virtual cross-cultural component to on-campus courses and enables an institution-neutral ‘third space’ in which to teach your new virtual exchange course globally.

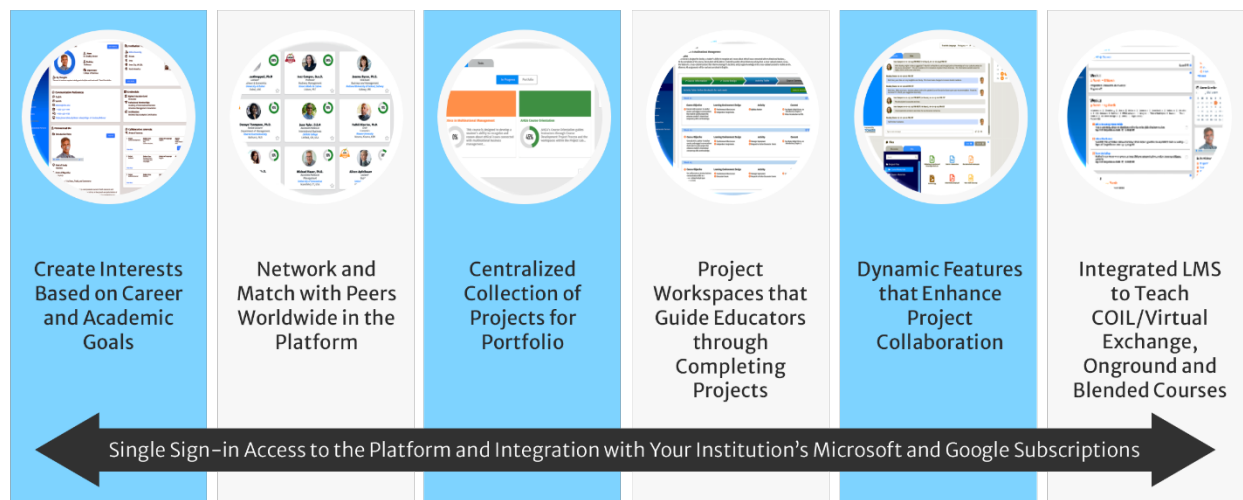
### ***ISEP Digital Badges***

Faculty from ISEP institutions will have a digital ISEP badge added to their profile in the InspirED platform. This badge provides a quick visual identification of others within the ISEP community and enables easier networking and collaboration between members.

Additionally, all AHEA+ISEP Academy Fellows will receive a badge confirming completion of program and certification from the Academy.

## What is the InspirED platform?

InspirED is an integrated, cloud-based, mobile ready platform focused on faculty and their students. In short, by using InspirED, members may network, collaborate and teach together.



Recorded demonstrations of InspirED may be found on our website at <https://www.ahealliance.org/demo-library/>.

## Can I learn more about AHEA and the InspirED platform prior to joining?

Yes. We are offering two ‘AHEA Welcome and InspirED™ Platform Demonstration’ sessions for ISEP Members & Affiliates. During these online events, participants will learn about AHEA and how to:

- Identify colleagues with similar professional interests to build and expand international partnerships
- Collaborate to develop virtual exchange/COIL courses
- Leverage all the exclusive benefits for ISEP Members and Affiliates, including teaching your virtual exchange courses through the InspirED platform

These sessions are being offered on Wednesday March 2, 2022 at 2:00 pm eastern, and Wednesday March 9, 2022 at 7:00 pm eastern. To register for one of these live events, please visit <https://www.ahealliance.org/ISEP>. Each session will be recorded and made available for individuals from the ISEP community who cannot participate in a live demonstration.

## How do I join AHEA and begin using my complimentary membership?

To become a member, go to <https://www.ahealliance.org/join-ahea/> to complete and submit your individual member application. All applicants will receive a series of emails noting when the application has been submitted, reviewed and approved. Then you will be provided with your credentials to the InspirED™ platform and you may begin taking advantage of features and resources available to you, including your exclusive ISEP benefits.

1. Complete and submit the online Individual Membership Application using the URL noted above. *Please be sure to note your membership/affiliation with ISEP on question #21.*
2. Our AHEA team will review your responses and reach back with any questions.
3. Once your application has been approved, you will receive a confirmation email as well as an email from the InspirED platform that includes your User ID and temporary password.
4. Take advantage of all your member benefits on an annual basis through December 31 of each year.
5. Interested in having your institution join AHEA for free? Contact Clayton Harrington, Vice President for Institutional Relations at [charrington@thealliance.org](mailto:charrington@thealliance.org).

## Who may I contact with any additional questions before I apply?

We welcome your questions and want to make sure you have sufficient information about this strategic partnership between AHEA and ISEP before you apply. For questions specific to ISEP, please contact Michael Alijewicz at [malijewicz@isep.org](mailto:malijewicz@isep.org). For questions regarding AHEA, please reach out to Clayton Harrington, Vice President for Institutional Relations at [charrington@thealliance.org](mailto:charrington@thealliance.org).