



SEMESTER AT SEA ACADEMIC DEAN FALL 2027 VOYAGE

Application deadline: Monday, August 17, 2026, 11:59 pm MDT

Position Title: Academic Dean - Fall 2027 Voyage
Reports to: Executive Dean (during the voyage)
Assignment Type: Temporary, full-time
Location:

- **Fort Collins, CO:** Prior to and following the voyage (i.e., approximately 150 hrs. during the pre-voyage stage; and about 10 hrs. for post-voyage meetings and assessments).
- **Shipboard, on the MV *World Odyssey*:** Full-time during the voyage preceded by two days of orientation prior to sailing (approximately 110 days, September through December)

Organization Description

Established in 1963, the Institute for Shipboard Education (ISE) is a 501(c) non-profit organization. In collaboration with academic partner Colorado State University, ISE delivers the Semester at Sea® program, one of the longest operating higher education study abroad programs. Semester at Sea® provides its students a global comparative education through classroom and experiential learning in the field. The Semester at Sea® floating campus, the MV World Odyssey, carries around 550 students plus faculty, staff, and others. The duration of the semester voyage is typically 105 days, including visits to approximately 10 countries. ISE conducts two semester voyages annually. See the [Semester at Sea](https://semesteratsea.org) website for more information on upcoming voyages.

ISE's Mission

Journeys of Discovery that Spark Bold Solutions to Global Challenges

Voyage Community Values:

Well-being | Interconnectedness | Respect | Inclusion | Integrity | Excellence

Voyage Learning Outcomes:

Personal Journey | Journey in Human Community | Journey on Planet Earth | Lifelong Learning

Position Description

The Academic Dean is responsible for the shipboard and in-country academic program and, thereby, exercises direct and indirect supervision of faculty and other academic staff (i.e.,



Academic Advisor/Registrar, Faculty-Led Programs Coordinator). The Academic Dean mediates faculty and student issues, including but not limited to academic engagement, grade appeals, and field classes. The Academic Dean is a member of the onboard Voyage Leadership Team (VoLT) and collaborates closely with, and reports to, the Executive Dean throughout the voyage.

This is a one-semester assignment from CSU and ISE, with significant pre-voyage time commitments as well. Details of compensation will be arranged with the appointee's academic department. The appointee will return to their regularly assigned role following the voyage. Absence from campus to serve in this role will not be counted as leave or associated with a sabbatical.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

The individual in this position must be able to perform the essential duties and responsibilities with or without reasonable accommodation and listed here:

Pre-Voyage

- Starting approximately 9 to 10 months prior to the voyage, work with the Senior Academic Officer (SAO) to interview and recommend 25-28 faculty members for hiring by ISE and engage in other tasks related to academic planning.
- Most, if not all, faculty will need to be hired in Fall 2026. Therefore, the AD will need to be available to participate in faculty interviews across several weeks during the Fall 2026 semester, immediately after being appointed to the role.
- Work with the SAO to shape the academic curriculum for the voyage, with an emphasis on innovation, quality, and consistency across voyages as well as attention to the frequently offered courses that Semester at Sea® offers.
- Mentor the voyage faculty regarding course design, expectations, and general voyage preparation.
- Work with the ISE Academic Affairs team in the selection of the voyage Academic Advisor/Registrar, Librarian, Faculty-Led Programs Coordinator and the identification of candidates to serve as Interport Lecturers (IPLs).
- Attend the Voyage Leadership Team (VoLT) orientation in Fort Collins, CO (mandatory, and usually, 2-3 days in early summer—a few months in advance of embarkation) and participate in subsequent phone/video conferences with the VoLT.
- As faculty and academic staff are advanced in the hiring process, the AD will be expected to meet with the academic staff (i.e., academic staff and faculty) to establish rapport, nurture comradery, clarify expectations, identify/help answer questions, orient them for the living and learning community aboard the ship.
- Become familiarized with the Semester at Sea Learning Management System (LMS): Moodle.
- If needed, willingness to develop proficiency using a Windows PC and Google Workspace (Gmail, Gmail Contacts, Calendar, Meet and Chat for communication, Drive for storage, etc.)
- Ensure that the faculty are “voyage ready” (i.e., have completed Moodle training and/or any CSU and/or ISE required training to be able to access the intranet systems



- once on board the ship, and be ready to deliver instruction).
- Recruit faculty for Evening Seminars and draft a preliminary schedule to be submitted no later than a month before departing for the voyage.

During the Voyage

- Provide overall leadership to fulfill the mission of the voyage consistent with the expectations of ISE and CSU.
- Embrace, model, and champion the voyage community values in support of the voyage's mission and learning outcomes.
- Lead the onboarding of the entire Academic Team, which is comprised by the entire faculty and the academic staff (Academic Advisor/Registrar, Librarian, Writing Center Director, Faculty-Led Programs Coordinator, and the Global Core Team Director).
- Provide leadership and support to the voyage Academic Team throughout the voyage.
- Regularly meet with the academic staff team to ensure academic operations success and hold 2-3 all faculty and academic staff meetings during the voyage.
- Maintain regular office hours and be available to meet 1:1 with members of the Academic Team.
- Communicate effectively to advance teamwork with a positive mindset that is conducive to being solutions-focused in support of student success and the success of the voyage community at large.
- Create and foster a culture of inclusive excellence and best practices in teaching and learning.
- Oversee academic matters (e.g., courses, field classes, academic/enrollment policies).
- Engage in academic activities involving students.
- Lead the implementation of the Evening Seminar series.
- Address faculty and student concerns relative to academics.
- Collaborate on co-curricular programming with leadership/student life staff and promote and foster broad collaboration among faculty and staff.
- Support academic advising for all students in collaboration with the Academic Advisor/Registrar.
- Support student accommodations through the Academic Advisor/Registrar.
- Coordinate the hosting of Interport Lecturers (IPLs) and other VIPs as requested by ISE Academics.
- Represent the Semester at Sea® program to VIPs and other special guests on ship and in port.
- Ensure coverage of academic classes in the event of faculty illness or other eventualities.
- Plan Convocation (in collaboration with the Executive Dean and Academic Advisor/Registrar).
- Ensure that all grades have been submitted prior to Convocation.
- Support mid-point course evaluation processes.
- Manage student grade appeals.
- Provide feedback to voyage faculty, academic staff, and/or VoLT as needed



- Oversee the onboard implementation of any students/staff/faculty assessments requested by ISE Academics.
- Provide reports or fulfill other duties relevant to the AD role during the voyage as requested by ISE Academics.

Post-Voyage

- As needed, manage student grade appeals received no later than 30 working days after the last day of the voyage.
- Evaluate all voyage faculty members at the end of the voyage no later than 30 working days after the last day of the voyage.
- Participate in follow-up meetings and other VoLT assessments.
- Prepare and e-submit an *Academic Dean Transition Report* to the SAO no later than 30 working days after the last day of the voyage.
- Debrief ISE staff teams.
- Support internationalization activities and efforts on the CSU campus.

Required & Strongly Preferred Qualifications and Skills

- Colorado State University employee status is required.
- All tenured, tenure-track, contract, and continuing, full-time CSU faculty or administrative professionals on a regular appointment are eligible to apply. This includes those who have retired from CSU.
- Ph.D. or terminal degree in a field of study (required)
- Administrative experience/Academic leadership experience (required), preferably at department head level or above, and with an established satisfactory record of significant personnel supervision.
- Ability to work effectively and collegially as part of a leadership team and as supportive members of a shipboard community.
- Ability to work intensely under time pressure / constraints.
- Demonstrated experience in effectively leading and supporting individuals (direct reports) as well as teams in managing ambiguity, change, interpersonal conflicts, and crises successfully.
- International experience, preferably prior teaching experience on a Semester at Sea® voyage.
- Established record of excellent communication and organizational skills.
- Appropriate supervisory training, completed prior to assuming the duties.
- Demonstrated ability to be resourceful, display high levels of adaptability, and remain flexible and calm when dealing with unexpected or unanticipated events.
- Ability to articulate and enforce academic principles, policies, and procedures.
- Demonstrated competency in working with and supporting diverse students and staff.
- Commitment to the mission of ISE by reflecting ISE values including the ability to advance the SAS commitment to diversity and inclusion.



Working Conditions

- **Initial Adjustment:** Shipboard life involves an initial adjustment period. The environment is highly stimulating and fast-paced, which may require time for acclimation.
- **Environment:** This job position requires work performed on a moving ship for which there are narrow doorways, and tight, enclosed quarters. There may be odors or noise. The temperature on the ship can be cool or warm, depending on many variables. There may be periods of rough seas, making it harder to move on the ship.
- **Health:** A health team (physician, PA/NP, counselors) is available on the ship. The medical capabilities while at sea are focused on urgent care and temporary stabilization of emergency medical and mental health conditions using basic medical supplies and equipment with a limited formulary. Very limited medications may be available; voyagers are expected to bring sufficient current medications for the entire voyage. In some regions, there may be no access to emergency evacuation. While in port, local healthcare system resources are utilized, which can vary widely in capabilities. Counseling services typically focus on short-term, solution-oriented interventions to address situational issues. Owing to the unique semester schedule divided between port and sea days, counselors cannot meet with voyage participants on the equivalent of a week-to-week basis. Extended psychological or psychiatric services are not available on the ship and are limited in quantity and quality in different ports. Voyagers may be required to disembark if medical or mental health needs exceed the care capabilities available onboard.
- **Sea Conditions:** Ship movement and variable sea conditions are inherent to the voyage and may affect balance, stability, and concentration. There is an increased risk of seasickness, dizziness, nausea, and slips or falls.
- **Accessibility and Accommodation:** The vessel has physical and operational limitations that may affect accessibility. Voyagers with accommodation-related questions are encouraged to engage early in the interactive process.
- **Privacy:** Faculty and staff can expect to be in the company of students, lifelong learners, and dependent children when in public areas on the ship. Overall, privacy is very limited aboard the vessel, and the voyager's cabin (i.e., if not shared with companions) is the only place where the individual can find full privacy.
- **Food & Dining:** Dining services operate within limited schedules and capacity constraints. Due to supply, storage, and operational limitations, the ship may not be able to accommodate all dietary preferences or restrictions onboard or during field activities.
- **Time Frame:** There are over 100 days of travel on a 700+ passenger ship. The 100+



days are divided between time at sea and time on land in foreign ports. There may be voyage segments that include long stretches at sea. Classes are held nearly every day at sea; there are no regular 'weekend' breaks.

- **Field Program:** Travel and sometimes significant walking are required for Field Programs/Classes. Field programs are optional fee-based in-country experiences organized by ISE available to all voyagers. Field classes are led by faculty members and are required, eight-hour, in-country components of each course. They account for 20% of each student's grade in that course.

Physical Demands of the Job

- Computer work is required
- Extended walking and standing, sometimes on uneven surfaces, is required
- Lifting/carrying/bending/moving objects up to 25lbs.
- Climbing stairs to embark and disembark the ship, in the port terminal, and in-country may be required

Compensation

- Active full-time CSU faculty members receive their regular pay and benefits through CSU. Additionally, given that duties commence long before the voyage and in tandem with the full-time employment, CSU will pay \$5,000 in supplemental pay, subject to all taxes and to all other deductions required by law.
- For emeritus CSU faculty members, a stipend of \$20,000 is paid directly by ISE in three equal installments during the voyage. This stipend is subject to taxes and to all other deductions required by law.
- Additionally, whether on active employment status or retired, the Institute for Shipboard Education (ISE) will offer a supplemental taxable stipend of \$2,300 to help cover the cost of your travel to and from the ship as well as other incidental travel expenses. This stipend is paid via CSU or directly from ISE depending on the employee status (active or retired from CSU).
- Opportunity to request to sail with an adult companion and dependent children/teenagers (5 years of age and older) for (an) additional fee(s). (**Note:** Requests for companions and dependent children/teenagers are subject to and other restrictions.)
- Opportunity to apply to be a Trip Liaison and receive ISE in-country field programs for a free or reduced price.
- Passage, room, and board on the vessel during the Terms of the Agreement.
- Medical Emergency and Evacuation insurance coverage.

Application Deadline

Please submit your application in the format requested below on or prior to Monday, **August 17, 2026, 11:59 pm MDT.**

Application Instructions

Please send the materials requested/listed below to **Kristin Mravinec** at kristin.mravinec@Colostate.edu with the following Subject Line: Semester at Sea AD Search Fall 27 Voyage:

1. A cover letter addressing your interest in the position and your qualifications as aligned with the preferred qualifications and skills of the role and confirming your availability for Fall 27.
2. A current CV. Please include your phone number in addition to your email address.
3. Contact names, titles, email addresses, and phone numbers for three professional references. (References will not be contacted without prior notification of candidates).
4. The completed/signed [CSU Endorsement and Approval Form for Academic Dean Applicants](#).

Submit your materials in separate Word files. Please, label each of your files as follows:

- Last Name.First Name_Cover Letter
- Last Name.First Name_CV
- Last Name.First Name_References
- Last Name.First Name_Endorsement and Approval Form

Search Process Timeline | August—September, 2026

Task	Date	Completed by
Application Deadline	August 17	Kristin Mravinec
Finalist Review & Selection	August 18-19	Search Committee
Invitations to Interview Sent via Email	August 20	Senior Academic Officer
Interview of Finalists followed by Search Committee Deliberations	August 27-28	Search Committee
Notification to Confirmed Academic Dean	September 18	Kristin Mravinec

Please direct your application and position-specific questions to Dr. Fabiola Ehlers-Zavala, Senior Academic Officer for Semester at Sea at fehlers-zavala@isevoyages.org. Thank you.



The Institute for Shipboard Education | Semester at Sea® is an equal opportunity employer. We encourage anyone, regardless of race, age, creed, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, gender, disability, veteran status, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, pregnancy, or any other classification protected by law, to apply.

Colorado State University (CSU) provides equal employment opportunities to all applicants for



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SEMESTER AT SEA

employment and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any type without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws.

CSU is committed to full inclusion of qualified individuals. If you are needing assistance or accommodations with the search process, please reach out to CSU's [Office of Equal Opportunity](#) at oeo@colostate.edu or (970) 491-5836.

Please note, applicants may redact information from their application materials that identifies their age, date of birth, or dates of attendance at or graduation from an educational institution. References will not be contacted without prior notification to candidates.