

# ACADEMIC ADVISOR SPOTLIGHT

## ANUJA PARIKH



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“Anuja has been an extraordinary advisor and guide to me, especially as a new student at UofSC”, says Romina Pinto, a junior majoring in International Studies. “Her support during my first semester at UofSC has been invaluable. I had been interested in studying abroad for some time, and Anuja provided me with detailed information about the different options that were available to me. She was always very friendly and made me feel welcome and equally important.”



Anuja Parikh joined the Education Abroad office as an advisor in the Fall of 2018. Prior to joining the UofSC community, Anuja served as a Study Abroad Advisor at the University of Florida where she also earned a BS in Business Administration degree and Masters degree in International Business.

Her supervisor, Allison Kretschmar says, “She has been contributing in amazing ways ever since she joined the office. She advocates for students and works incredibly hard to ensure they have a voice, access to education abroad opportunities, and supports them every step of the way. She has worked to continue building relationships with other campus partners and broadening our collaborations with other offices. She has supported our Benjamin A. Gilman scholarship applicants, which has seen a significant rise in recipients during her tenure at UofSC. She is a great advisor that engages students and prompts them to think about their goals and how education abroad will support those.”



**ANUJA PARIKH**  
Education Abroad Advisor  
Diversity and Inclusion  
Coordinator

In addition to developing the recruitment strategy for the U.S. Department of State’s Benjamin A. Gilman scholarship, boosting UofSC’s success rate from 19% to 54% for the academic year and producing a record high number of awardees for the institution, she also spearheaded the Education Abroad Office’s overall diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts which has since earned her the title of Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator in the office. Her work included leading a team of 10 internal and external stakeholders to create the first Study Abroad DEI Task Force and developing nine Student Identity webpages for marginalized student groups to have tailored resources in preparation of studying abroad. “I and many others are continually empowered by the work that Anuja does. Her work to support students of color has not gone unnoticed”, says Jared Dawson, a Capstone Scholar and senior majoring in Public Health. “Anuja has organized and executed multiple events to address the disproportionately low number of students of color who studied abroad. After she invited me to participate in two panels that highlight the experiences of Black students abroad, I felt inspired to continue the momentum that Anuja created. Since the last panel, I have begun the process of creating a new student organization called “Black and Abroad”. This organization aims to connect abroad returnees with students interested in one day going abroad so that these students can have the support and resources they need.”

If this wasn’t impressive enough, Anuja also created and launched a new program, Global Gamecock Guides, leading a team of 6 to support 200+ international students and study abroad alumni, ultimately earning national recognition as a GoAbroad Innovation Awards Finalist. Romina shared, “Anuja is very knowledgeable, professional, kind, and considerate. She makes sure she is always available to help and is very accommodating, providing alternatives when her schedule does not allow it. It is not every advisor that makes such efforts to mentor students. I very much appreciate her encouragement and support. Without it, trying to achieve my objective to study abroad would be very difficult. Anuja has been an extraordinary advisor and guide to me, especially as a new student at UofSC.”



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