Beyond Abroad: Continuing the abroad experience at home and into the future

Forum on Education Abroad
Thursday, March 30, 2017
Today’s discussion will include

- Introductions
- A short conversation on theory
- What is being done to develop resources where we are
- Action planning to explore resources where you are
- Discussion and question time
Who we are

Deborah Lake McConnell, University of Maryland
Mory Pagel, SIT Study Abroad/School for International Training
Jeff Cary, Institute of International Education
Our premise

Students are confronted with their identity while studying abroad.

Students question their place in society, both at home and new their new community.

Students develop new skills and knowledge relating to self and others.

How can we encourage student’s continued growth and engagement?
Chickering’s Seven Vectors

- **Vector 1**: Developing Competence
- **Vector 2**: Managing Emotions
- **Vector 3**: Moving Through Autonomy to Interdependence
- **Vector 4**: Developing Mature Interpersonal Relationships
- **Vector 5**: Establishing Identity
- **Vector 6**: Developing Purpose
  - Classroom Engagement
  - Civic Engagement
  - Career Discernment
- **Vector 7**: Developing Integrity
Freshmen Abroad
What did you use to know for sure that you don’t know for sure anymore?

Spring semester course, UNIV 100: The Student and the University

Issues: Social Justice, In-group/out-group, group work in the classroom, campus involvement, social norms, empathy, how to navigate different contexts: what skills they learned
Campus Partnerships

Admissions
Career Center
First Year Book
Office of Extended Studies
Undergraduate Advising
National Scholarships Office

COLLABORATION
1. Academic Reintegration

*The key to academic reintegration is finding ways to actively integrate new knowledge, interests, and skills into a student’s college or university experience*

- Register for courses related to the location or theme of their study abroad experience
- Identify faculty who do work in the locations or on the same topic
- Undergraduate Research Conferences
  - Notre Dame’s Human Development Conference
  - National Council on Undergraduate Research
  - Posters on the Hill
Al-Noor: The Boston College Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies journal is run entirely by BC undergraduates and featuring work from around the world.

American Journal of Undergraduate Research: A national, independent, peer reviewed, open-source, just-in-time, multidisciplinary student research journal with a 10-week publication schedule for excellent student articles.

Critique: A worldwide student journal of politics that provides a forum for graduate and undergraduate students of politics to express and exchange diverse ideas and to imagine new possibilities for democracy and justice.

Journal of Undergraduate International Studies: A peer-reviewed journal that seeks to publish the best undergraduate work across the country related to international themes and topics including, but not limited to: international conflict and conflict resolution, human rights, environmental issues, history, comparative politics and economics, development and trade, global security and international health.

Journal of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Excellence: A peer-reviewed, undergraduate journal registered with the Library of Congress that accepts submissions of any subject, from any undergraduate institution.
Alumni Survey

Goal: To analyze the long-term impacts and outcomes of SIT Study Abroad programs on alumni, with particular focus on career outcomes.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 64% of alumni reported that their SIT Study Abroad experience influenced their decision to pursue an advanced degree.
- 67% of SIT Study Abroad alumni have earned or are currently pursuing an advanced degree.
- Alumni of SIT’s health–focused programs achieve advanced degrees at the rate of nearly 100%.
2. Civic Engagement and Social Action

Successful activist work cannot be done alone and the key to civic engagement and social action is connecting with organizations and people doing the work they want to do and care about

- Stay Connected
- Write an article for local newspaper or campus publication
- Volunteer
- International Student Union
- SIT’s Global Reciprocity Fund
- Student Conferences – IMPACT, Model UN, Connecting for Change
- Bedouin Coffee Company
3. Professional and Career Development

The key to professional development is to integrate the international experience into the students repertoire of skills and abilities

- Practice describing the study abroad experience in a professional context
- Discuss skill development with career counselor, a mentoring program, or staff in professional development offices on your campus
- List of books and databases that discuss global careers
  - Working World: Careers in International Education, Exchange, and Development by Sherry Mueller and Mark Overmann
  - Working Your Way Around the World: The Globetrotter’s Bible by Susan Griffith
  - International Jobs: Where They Are and How to Get Them by Nina Segal
• Fellowships and Scholarships

• SIT examples of fellowships:
  • SIT Alice Rowan Swanson Fellowship
  • World Learning Advancing Leaders Fellowship

• Smithsonian Fellowships and other discipline-specific fellowship opportunities
Thank You!

For a copy of the toolkit: studyabroad.sit.edu/alumni/
How will this experience affect your career trajectory?

What unique skills will it impart?

(Do your homework!)
SELECTION CRITERIA

• National security argument specific to applicant’s interests

• Future career plan & connection to government service

• Plan for overseas language study & post-program maintenance
While I was living in Egypt, I was not just learning about the culture -- I was living it. [Now I] produce Arabic-language webchats that communicate U.S. foreign policy objectives to...viewers in countries like Egypt and Morocco.

- New Media Producer, U.S. Department of State

My Boren Fellowship was an important step to landing the job I wanted at the Department of Agriculture. [E]xperience living abroad, Portuguese proficiency, and veterinary public practice...all contributed to my success when applying and interviewing for this job.

- Foreign Service Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture

A job may not explicitly advertise for unique language or cultural skills.... Yet, you will often be the only one in the room with your skills, and if you can land in an office that recognizes that, you will find yourself to be an important contributor to new and innovative programs.

- Program Officer, U.S. Office of Naval Research
Action Plans and Discussion

What is an action plan?

Process to focus ideas and define steps needed to achieve goals

Identify resources available and resources needed

Put plan into action

What can you bring back and include/incorporate/apply to your local context?

How can we highlight the longevity of the student experience? Help students to draw connections between the abroad experience and their lives before, during, and after studying abroad?
Example

We need more students to get scholarships!

Vs.

Our goal is to collaborate with the financial aid office and writing center to offer 3 workshops to at least 50 students by fall 2017 on how to write scholarship personal statements.
Action Planning Worksheet

Think about and identify specific steps you can take in order to achieve the goals and objectives for your office. This tool can be used to create action plans for strategic planning, programming, process evaluation, and more.

Tip: Make each action step as simple and specific as possible, break down complex actions into single steps

Goal:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Step</th>
<th>Responsible Person</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Necessary Resources</th>
<th>Potential Challenges</th>
<th>Status and Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What needs to be done?</td>
<td>Who should take action to complete this step?</td>
<td>When should this step be completed?</td>
<td>What do you need in order to complete this step?</td>
<td>Is there anything that may impede completion?</td>
<td>Was this step successfully completed? Were any new steps identified in the process?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Goal completion date:
Deborah Lake McConnell – dmlake@umd.edu
Mory Pagel – mory.pagel@sit.edu
Jeff Cary – jcary@jie.org or borenawards.org
References


