

The Digital Dialogue: The Ups and Downs of Technology in Study Abroad

Discussion Questions

Set 1:

-What do you see as some of the benefits of meeting students where they're at technologically? How does your office do this?

-What do you see as potentially detrimental effects of meeting students where they're at technologically? In what ways does your office account for this?

Set 2:

-What are some innovative ways your office uses technology?

-Have you seen any examples of student dependence on technology interfering with their study abroad experience?

Set 3:

-Most of us spent time abroad before the omnipresence of social media, texting, and emails. How would your personal experience abroad have been different with these technologies? Would it have been better or worse?

-Do you think students can gain the same skills from study abroad that they can through a web-based learning platform that doesn't include a component abroad?

Set 4:

-Huesca (2013) says, "In the rush to protect our students and our universities through the adoption of digital technologies, we unwittingly have extinguished the necessary conditions for personal transformation that justify the expense, risk, and sacrifice of study abroad". Do you think excessive use of technology inhibits student personal transformation?

-How have your returnee study abroad students utilized technology positively?

Set 5:

-How can your office effectively use YouTube, blogs, and podcasts to engage students in study abroad?

-How can we as education abroad professionals intentionally make students aware of some of the possible detrimental effects of overuse of technology? What kind of example do we set for them?

Set 6:

-Discussions about student mental health are at the forefront of Education Abroad today. Do you think there is a correlation between the increase we've seen in student mental health issues and an overreliance on technology?

-Do you think there are students who feel more empowered to study abroad because of the support they can receive from technology?

Tessly A. Dieguez
University of Florida
tdieguez@ufic.ufl.edu

Dr. Angela D'Antonio
Wesley College
angela.dantonio@wesley.edu

The Forum on Education
Abroad 2014

Kyle Rausch
Arizona State University
Kyle.Rausch@asu.edu

Victor Greto
Wesley College
victor.greto@wesley.edu

Dr. Jack Barnhardt
Wesley College
jack.barnhardt@wesley.edu