Back to basics: The Academic Foundation of Education Abroad

FOUR INNOVATIVE EXAMPLES OF ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH PROGRAMS
Presenters

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Structure of the session

1. THEN AND NOW
2. BACK TO BASICS
3. SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION
4. FEEDBACK FROM THE AUDIENCE
5. Research project on the Spanish Civil War Historical Memory at CASA Barcelona
6. The Trinity Semester Start-Up Programme, Trinity College
7. Academic Internships & STEM Research Assistantships at CASA Granada
8. Short-term Science & Language Courses at CEU San Pablo University
9. Wrap-up and Q & A
1. THEN AND NOW

325,339 U.S. students enrolled in university courses abroad in 2015/16,
20,872 students more than the previous year.

62% chose **Short-term programs**
(an increase of 10.34% from 10 years ago)

From the 2017 Open Doors Report
1. THEN AND NOW

25.2% were STEM students
+ 20.9% were Business & Management students
= 46.1% Science students

From the 2017 Open Doors Report
1. THEN AND NOW

Non-credit work, Internships and volunteering

23.125 students

3.09% more than the previous year

7.1% of the total number of students

From the 2017 Open Doors Report
1. THEN AND NOW

Development of students for career readiness
1. THEN AND NOW

- Increase in number of students
- Short-term programs
- STEM & Business students
- Non-credit work, Internships and volunteering
- Development for career readiness
2. BACK TO BASICS

- How have the academic programs adapted to the changes in EA?
- Has the academic component retained its rigor in new shorter programs or STEM courses?
- How have programs adapted to new teaching parameters (from technological to more participatory approaches)?
- Does the curricula reflect the trend toward students also appreciating and contributing to the academic abroad communities they are joining?
2. BACK TO BASICS

“In times of change, learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists.”

Eric Hoffner
3. SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION
4. FEEDBACK FROM THE AUDIENCE
What is the Consortium…?

Composed and managed by:

- Brown University
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Darmouth College
- Harvard University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Northwestern University
- The University of Pennsylvania
- University of Melbourne
- Vanderbilt University
- Trinity College Dublin

With program-centers in:

- Barcelona (Spain)
- Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- Dublin (Eire)
- Granada (Spain)
- Havana (Cuba)
- Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
- Sevilla (Spain)
Project Aims

- Promote local based research carried out by undergraduate students in the city/countries where CASA has divisional centers

- Establish linkages between CASA professors and those at local universities

- Create forums of debate (seminars, conferences and symposia) and dissemination (regular publications)

- Modify the Study Abroad perspective: giving vs. getting (not patronizing-imperial charity)
Why Historical Memory

- **Interdisciplinary**: involvement of diverse research fields (literature, cinema, history, anthropology, forensic science, social psychology, archeology, urban studies, political sciences and sociology)

- **Global**: all of the countries which host CASA divisional centers are immersed in the debate surrounding their own historical memory
How Project Runs...

- Student research projects: ensuring the involvement of local and/or home institution professors
- Semester activities (guided visits, internships and volunteering positions, etc.).
- Annual seminar/conference by regions (Europe/the Americas)
- Summer courses
- Final symposium (3rd year): bringing together all the students, professors and specialists
- Collaboration with local entities
- Edition of a series of publications highlighting the most outstanding projects (ie. “CASB Occasional Papers”)
6. EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICES IN INNOVATIVE ACADEMIC & RESEARCH CURRICULUM

THE SEMESTER START-UP PROGRAMME

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

HANNAH HOPKINS KILGORE
6. Trinity College Dublin: Introduction

• Established in 1592, located in the heart of Dublin’s city centre
• Ranked the top university in Ireland
• Long history of welcoming study abroad students
• Office of the VP for Global Relations est. in 2012
• Global Relations Structure includes Global Room, Global Officers, Study Abroad Team
• First international member institution of CASA
6. Trinity: Programmes

• Trinity welcomes SA students from all over the world
• All students are fully immersed in Trinity’s rigorous academic environment and vibrant campus life
• Trinity offers traditional semester or academic year abroad, alongside these additional academic programmes:
  • CASA semester programme with Idea Translation Lab module
  • CASA summer internship programme
  • January Term Literature Programme
Semester Start-Up Programme

- Orientation programme available to all semester study abroad students
- Autumn Term: Three weeks, 5 ECTS
- Spring Term: One week, not credit bearing
- Promotes both academic and extracurricular learning
  - Three academic strands:
    - **The Story of Ireland**: From St. Patrick to the Present Day
    - **Visualizing Ireland**: Archaeology, Art & Architecture
    - **Representing Ireland**: Ireland and the Irish in Drama, Literature & Film
- Excursions to national cultural institutions and historical landmarks
Semester Start-Up Programme
Hi, my name is Michaela Vitagliano, and I hail from Boston. I am so fortunate to spend an academic year here in Ireland, studying at the historical and prestigious Trinity College. My Humanities major at Yale translates into several different departments here — already the European education system’s differences are apparent! Over
“Reflecting, I felt that my experience with SSP was truly beneficial and allowed me to approach my interactions with the country, my modules, and the Irish people with much more understanding thanks to its teaching.”
Academic Internships & STEM Research Assistantships

- Collaborations
- Challenges
- Results
- Rewards
CASA Granada offers the opportunity for students at all levels of Spanish language proficiency to expand their horizons through a combination of rigorous academic studies, traditional immersion programming, and innovative experiential activities.

The goal is for CASA Granada students to engage with the local and university communities in meaningful and collaborative ways that will have lasting implications for their formation as global citizens.

CASA Granada is also committed to fostering and facilitating joint research and teaching projects between the Consortium member schools and the prestigious University of Granada (UGR).
National and international rankings reflect the UGR’s climbing position among the top research universities: top 3 in Spain; top 300 in the World (2017 ARWU-Shanghai Ranking).

Areas of strength in UGR research include: Computer Science & Engineering, Geology, Mathematics, Psychology/Cognitive Sciences, Food Engineering, Earth Sciences, Archaeology, Chemical Engineering, Environmental Sciences and Education.

The UGR is home to the state-of-the-art Technological Health Sciences Park.

Solid institutional relations between CASA Granada (and previously Brown-in-Granada) and the UGR are key. CASA Directors work closely with UGR officials on the Academic Internship & STEM Assistantship programs and student placements every semester.
CASA Granada Academic Internships & STEM Research Assistantships

COLLABORATIONS: THE IMPORTANCE OF MUTUAL BENEFITS

- Student contributions are stressed and reinforced.
- Students themselves want to feel useful.
- English is an important contribution in both programs.
- Monetary contributions are made to the CASA-UGR Fund to support faculty/researcher mobility to Brown and other CASA schools facilitating research/teaching collaborations.
- Three UGR faculty will spend 1-3 months at Brown this spring/summer.
CASA Granada Academic Internships & STEM Research Assistantships

CHALLENGES

- Differing academic calendars & varying class schedules pose logistical challenges.
- Well-intentioned faculty tutors have many time commitments & responsibilities.
- Maintaining student commitment for non-credit bearing projects when travel & social opportunities, distance to the PTS/UGR labs, etc. can de-motivate students over time.
- Exposure to too much English can pose a problem that must be addressed.
- Over-commitment of CASA students at home & realization/desire to have the free time that they have never had before/do not have at their home campuses & that they will not have when they return can make them reluctant & sometimes back out.
CASA Granada Academic Internships & STEM Research Assistantships

RESULTS: ACADEMIC INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS

- “Entrepreneurial UGR”
- UGR Peace & Conflict Institute
- Office of International Relations, School of Political Science and Sociology (2)
- UGR’s International Welcome Center (for visiting researchers)
- Office of International Relations, Law School
- Department of Archaeology
- Department of Urban Planning
- “UGRTerm” – Department of Translation & Interpreting
- “Bilingualism Matters” – English Department
CASA Granada Academic Internships & STEM Research Assistantships

RESULTS: STEM ASSISTANTSHIP PLACEMENTS

- Biomedical Research Center (3)
- Department of Statistics & Operative Research (2)
- The Mind, Brain & Behavior Research Center (3)
- Environmental Science Group, Ecology Department
- UGR Herbarium
- Department of Computational Sciences & Artificial Intelligence
- Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology III & Immunology (2)
- Department of Applied Physics
- Department of Psychobiology
- Genyo – Genetics and Cancer Research Center
- The Medical Research Institute & UGR Teaching Hospital Labs
CASA Granada Academic Internships & STEM Research Assistantships

RESULTS: BOTH PROGRAMS

- Designed for students at all levels of Spanish language proficiency (including beginner), students in areas of study across all disciplines are being accommodated.

- Advances in Spanish language acquisition in all cases. Expansion of vocabulary and field-specific terms.

- Better integration into the University of Granada. Especially for those studying at the Modern Language Center.

- Contact with prestigious faculty & PhD students = networking opportunities.

- Exposure to cultural norms of Spanish higher education administration & scientific research.
STEM Assistantships help students continue to work in/maintain contact with their STEM disciplines while dedicating a semester to learning Spanish language and culture.

Clear benefits to students entering health care fields who are preparing to serve Spanish-speaking communities in diverse settings in the US.

CASA Granada became an approved destination for the Brown University Minority Health & Health Disparities International Research Training (MHIRT) Program funded by the National Institutes for Health (NIH) supporting underrepresented students in the health sciences.
CASA Granada Academic Internships & STEM Research Assistantships

REWARDS: Happy student working on stem cell research
CASA Granada Academic Internships & STEM Research Assistantships

REWARDS: Happy student working on cancer research
CASA Granada Academic Internships & STEM Research Assistantships

REWARDS: Happy student working on immunology research
CASA Granada Academic Internships & STEM Research Assistantships

REWARDS: Happy student researching light rail impact on Spanish cities
CASA Granada Academic Internships & STEM Research Assistantships

REWARDS: Happy student conducting research on magnetic fluids
CASA Granada Academic Internships & STEM Research Assistantships

REWARDS: Happy student working on language & memory research
Thank you!

Suggested reading:

- *Whistling Vivaldi, How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do*  
  by Claude M. Steele

- *Successful STEM Mentoring Initiatives for Underrepresented Students, A Research-Based Guide for Faculty and Administrators*  
  by Becky Wai-Ling Packard
SUMMER SCIENCE & SPANISH COURSES

ROSA ALMOGUERA

CEU SAN PABLO UNIVERSITY

MADRID, SPAIN
GENERAL OBJECTIVES

• Share a Scientific Academic and Research experience in English with other International and USP CEU Spanish students.

• Learn Spanish language (at different levels).

• Engage with the local university community with the aid of the Spanish Culture class.
PRACTICAL INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD OF PHARMACY
To introduce students to the different fields of Pharmacy

- Synthesis and development of drugs
- Mechanisms of therapeutic action
- Diagnosis
- Research and Biotechnology
COURSE STRUCTURE

- Hands-on practice
- Research
- Lecture
- Visit Pharma Facilities
- Visit Biotech Companies
DIGITAL
MANUFACTURE
COURSE OBJECTIVE

Show students how to manage advanced technologies for Digital Manufacture.

- Computer aided design
- Laser cutting
- Parametric design
- Computer controlled machining
COURSE STRUCTURE

- Hands-on practice at the CEU FabLab (part of the MIT FabLab Network)
- Lectures by experts in digital fabrication
- Visits to relevant places in Madrid
* Five weeks
* Portfolio
* Final Presentation
Thank you!

¡Muchas gracias!

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