

Education Abroad in Uncertain Times: Case Study Cuba

...

Forum on Education Abroad
Boston, MA
March 22, 2018

Presenters

Erika Ryser

Institute for Study Abroad

AVP for Program Management

eryser@ifsa-butler.org

Prema Samuel

Sarah Lawrence College

Associate Dean

International and Exchange Programs

psamuel@sarahlawrence.edu

Anne Hulse

University of Tennessee

Programs Abroad Coordinator

ahulse1@utk.edu

Anna Santiago

Colgate University

Student

Peace and Conflict Studies/Spanish

asantiago@colgate.edu

Agenda

- Case Study Cuba: changes, advising, expectations, regulations, safety, faculty-led programs
- Examining other regions
- Small group discussions
- Reporting back and take-aways



Preparing Students for Cuba



- Are you ready to go?
Preparing students for Cuba and managing expectations.
- Are they really that clueless?
Getting students to understand what 'being safe' means before something bad happens.

Changes in Cuba

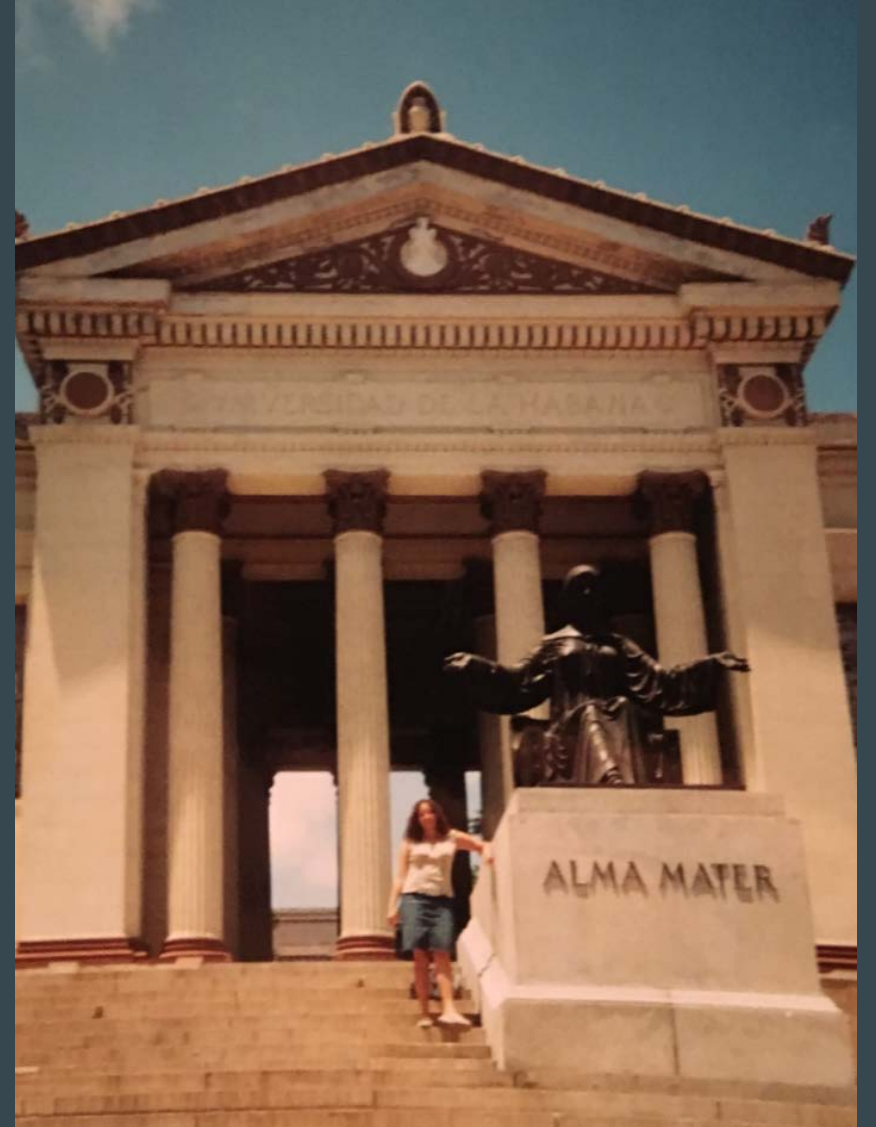


- Changing U.S.-Cuba relations
- Adapting to regulatory changes
- State Department
- Communicating with partners

Faculty-led Programs

- Developing and continuing programs
- Managing faculty expectations

- Advising and recruiting students
- Managing student expectations



Being a Successful Student in Cuba

- Preparation
- Managing expectations
- Flexibility



Questions?



Lessons from Cuba

- Nothing is routine. Always be prepared for the unexpected
- Stay ahead of the questions and more importantly anticipate the questions
- We don't always have the answers and its ok to say so
- Provide regular updates to the parents
- Consult your peers and listen to their comments and suggestions

Questions for Discussion

- We are facing volatile times and many countries are experiencing periods of political uncertainty. How do we prepare our students to adapt to such uncertainties?
- What are our expectations of study abroad programs? What do we expect now that we didn't before?
- Starting from our current practices and expectations, how can we better support our students abroad and each other?
- Identify your organization's challenges/weaknesses in this area. What is needed and/or how can we improve?

Take-aways and Action Points