Increasing International Education Opportunities for Student-Athletes

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Grant played football, basketball and golf at Willamette University, a D3 small liberal arts college. He studied abroad at Copenhagen Business School during graduate school and co-founded Beyond Sports in 2010 as a business school project.

Krista Lane,
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Krista played D3 soccer at Luther College and studied abroad in Spain. She attended graduate school at Portland State University. Prior to joining Beyond Sports, she was the Director of Study Abroad at Oregon State University and Business Development Manager at STA Travel.
Company Overview

- Our history
- **Mission:** Increase number of student-athletes that go abroad, Peace Corps of Sports

- Beyond Sports Tours
- Beyond Team Trips
- Student-Athletes Abroad

- Since 2010, more than 2,000 student-athletes from over 500 different colleges and universities
Understanding Your Athletic Department

- **Division I**
  - Highly competitive, scholarships, athletes are assets, financial motives
- **Division II**
  - Competitive, some scholarships
- **Division III**
  - Less competitive, no scholarships, ‘education is top priority’
- **NAIA and NCCAA**
  - Less competitive, few scholarships, less restrictive rules than NCAA

Understanding your athletic department’s philosophy and goals as well as the rules governing them is important in determining appropriate program models.
Obstacles

• Program timing and athletic commitments
• Program Design (training facilities, nutrition)
• This is an opportunity for me? (Identity)
• Coaches Influence and Athletics Culture
  • If coach isn’t at least neutral: no hope, off-season workouts, unique opportunity and everything else is a distraction
• Financial complications from NCAA (Fundraising)
• Focus on graduation rate as primary goal
Importance of Increasing Participation

• D3/NAIA – At small liberal arts colleges, student-athletes make up 25-50% of the total student population. D3 mission is for academics to be primary focus. Overlap with other low participation groups.

• D2 – Some overlap with D3 and some overlap with D1

• D1 – Combat the hyper sport focused culture in a way that compliments athletic department goals. Rude awakening/Regret. Overlap with other low participation groups and influencer potential.
Opportunities

• Sport specific training opportunities by country
• Scholarships mean families have more disposable income
• Athletic Department Funding (D1)
• Wittenberg Example (Mostly D3)
• Semester imbalances
• Internationalization of Campus
Program Models

- Team Trips (adding faculty led component)
- Sports Tours
- Summer Study Abroad (Open Enroll and Faculty Led)
- Summer Internship
- Service Learning (spring break or May/June)
- Off-Season Semester Program (probably not D1 Football/Basketball)
- Duke/Stanford, Oregon State, Souls for Souls, Courts for Kids
Breakout

• Breakout: By Division (1, 2, 3/NAIA)

• What student-athlete international experiences have happened on your campus?

• Are you involved in team trips?

• Have student-athletes done your general programs (if you track this)?

• Have you ever interfaced with your athletic department?

• Do you have a study abroad initiative for student-athletes?
Breakout Reflection

• Has anyone made any efforts to target student-athletes and in what ways?
• What are some challenges people have faced?
• Did we hear about any innovative program models that are working?
• Any other conversations that should be shared with everyone?
General Questions