The Impact of Short-Term Study Abroad

Give your students the opportunity to create their own path forward.
What are the possible benefits of study abroad?

- See the world
- Education
- Cultural experience
- Language skills
- Career opportunities
- Find new interests
- Make new friends
- Personal development
- University/graduate school admissions
- Life experience
Intercultural competence

- What is culture? [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMyofREc5Jk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMyofREc5Jk)
- AACU states that "intercultural skills (are) a learning outcome for all students" (2011)
- Study abroad can provide these skills by means of allowing students to experience new cultures, a diversity of backgrounds, and an exploration of our increasingly interconnected world.
- Since 2005, the number of U.S. college students studying abroad has increased by nearly 50 percent (IIE, 2015).
- 64.6% of all students who studied abroad did so in short-term programs (as of 2016)
What is short-term Study Abroad?

- According to the IIE, any program that is fewer than 8 weeks.
- "super short" is defined as lasting from one week to one month.
- Generally during the “non-academic” seasons (summer, winter, or spring break).
- Guided or faculty lead.
- Exchange programs.
Cultural Mentoring Abroad

- Pre-departure sessions addressing intercultural competence
- On-site reflection on cultural differences
- General discussions about culture, how to recognize dimensions of culture, and the process of adapting
- Discussions about students' own culture and cultural assumptions
- Providing specific information and challenging students' assumptions about the host culture
- Structured "breaks" from deep cultural immersion
- Giving students ideas about how to explore the host culture
- Providing advice about navigating cultural issues and practical matters in the host culture
- Considering students' individual levels of intercultural sensitivity and adapting teaching and mentoring accordingly
What are some of the challenges to short-term study abroad?

- Academic expectations
- Language acquisition
- Experiential learning
- Connections to a global community
- Faculty engagement
Impact on student learning

- Intercultural competence
- Global engagement
- Language achievement
- Underrepresented student populations
- GPA
- Career skills
Program impacts

- Retention
- Graduation rates
- Generates student interest
What options are available?

- American institute for foreign study
- University of Cambridge International Summer Programs
- African Impact
- Meiji Academy
- Spanish Institute for Global Education
- Center for Study Abroad
- PAVE Internships
- El Nomad
- Earth University
- CEA/EF/IES
Making the most of it

- Preparation
- Academic expectation
- Debriefing is a must
- Revisiting previous themes

"The true test of any educational experience is the extent to which students integrate their new knowledge and understanding into their lives" (Kenyon and Niehaus, 2011)
Funding

- How can I help my students afford a trip abroad?
- What grants/funding are available to my students?

NAFSA
References

- California Community College Students Outcomes Abroad Research (CCC SOAR) Project
- Effects of study abroad participation on student graduation rates: A study of three incoming freshman cohorts at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- Georgia Learning Outcomes of Students Studying Abroad Research Institute (GLOSSARI)
References