Making it Matter:

Working with Campus Partners to Help Students Leverage Study Abroad as a Valuable and Relevant Experience for Employment

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It All Began.....

- Partnership
- Employers value experience
- Students need to prepare and reflect
Marketing Your International Experience

- Process the study abroad experience—what did you learn/gain?
- Relate experiences to jobs/careers of interest
- Learn to “sell” experiences in resume, cover letters and interviews
- Workshop setting so that students could process and practice their stories
What we learned...

- Very successful seminar and was incorporated in the Minnesota Study Abroad Re-Entry Conference.
- One of the few structured opportunities for students to reflect on what they learned while abroad.
- Works better with semester and year-long students. January Term and shorter term summer students found it harder to articulate experiences.
Pre-Departure: Internship and On-Campus Interviewing Preparation

- Advance preparation and planning prior to leaving.
- Resume/Cover Letter draft reviewed.
- Ideas for building resume while on study abroad.
- Develop and use LinkedIn profile
- Informational Interviews and Network prior to departure
- Arrange interviews with organizations of interest before leaving.
- Get in the system for on-campus interviews.
Pre-Departure #2: Study Abroad Orientation break-out session

- Developed in Fall 2013, in response to dropping attendance at post-return workshop
- Break-out session at fall and spring orientation
- Engage students in a discussion regarding goals for their experience
- Encourage high level of engagement with host culture
- Market the post-return seminar
- Received good evaluations
Keep them in the loop...even while aboard

- While on Fall Study Abroad a newsletter is sent informing them of upcoming Job and Internship Fair in the spring semester.
- Notified they permitted to register after the posted deadline date when they return to campus for the reduced rate.
- For those on J-term abroad a PDF of the Job Fair preparation materials and a webinar is available on the Career Development Center website.
- Faculty Directors support and sharing.
Changes and Recommendations

- Students want the information, but it’s difficult to get them to come to an optional session. Create a pre and post mandatory session.
- Module format to complete while on study abroad.
- Create YouTube videos with segmented topics to view.
- Develop guidebooks for pre and post recommendations.
- Post all materials on Career Development and International Education websites.
- Involve and train faculty directors with materials to incorporate into experiences.
Let’s hear from you....

- Share with partner one thing you currently are doing with students to support the integration of career and study abroad.
- Group idea brainstorm....
Questions???

- What else would you like to hear from us?
THANKS for attending....

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