From Access to Impact: Diversity and Inclusion in Career-focused Study Abroad

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Overview

Part 1: Attracting and Supporting a Diverse Range of Students
   - Curriculum
   - Funding
   - The Education Abroad Investment

Part 2: Intentional Program Design
   - Future-Focused Study Abroad
Increasing the Value Proposition of Study Abroad

Access
mitigating institutional barriers

Abroad
transferrable skill building

Career
entering global workforce
Part 1 - Attracting and Retaining a Diverse Range of Students
The Student Mindset: Low-income, first-generation college students

EXPENSIVE and SLOWS TIMELINE TO GRADUATION

• “I never entertained the idea or thought about it [study abroad] because I didn’t have the funds and couldn’t fit it into my degree plan.”

• “I have to get in and get out because I can’t afford to stay any longer.”

• One student explained that the “biggest challenge was finding course credit.”
Student Perceptions and Institutional Barriers

- Too expensive
- Slows path to graduation
- Nothing for my major
- I work AND go to school
- Not for people “like me”
- What’s study abroad?
Strategies to Increase Access

**Academic Barriers**
- Study Abroad by Major (CI)
- Foreign credit database

**Financial Barriers**
- “Planning” Scholarships
- Sticker shock

**“Cultural Capital” Barriers**
- Strategic Partnerships
- Advising Strategies
Academic Barriers: Vocation-Driven Majors and Study Abroad

- Students need institutional endorsement – departmental stamp of approval
- Mitigating the academic risks of participation – credit guarantees and fulfilling degree requirements abroad
- Value of studying abroad in your major – career applications
- Build resources that support everyone, but really open the doors for students who have not traditionally studied abroad
Financial Barriers: Sticker Shock

REAL COST OF STUDY ABROAD
IS LESS THAN YOU THINK

Think of the REAL cost as the difference between studying on campus and studying abroad.

Example from the University of Texas at Austin
Traditional vs. Innovative Scholarships

“Just-in-time” scholarships or “planning” scholarships?

Disbursed in time to meet upfront costs?

- UT Austin’s Hutchison International Scholar program
- IFSA-Butler’s UpFront and First-Generation Scholars Programs
Part 2: Intentional Program Design
Building Skills for the Future

IFSA-Butler’s Work-to-Study program

• mitigates Federal Work Study losses while abroad
• cash disbursed upon project completion – while abroad when all other funding has long been disbursed
• professional development, resume building, portfolio building
• valuable exercise in articulating both concrete and soft skills
  o through the application process, goal development, project management, deadlines and a tangible final product.
Integrated Pre-Professional Program Design

• Recalibrate marketing materials to focus on pre-professional imagery
• Embed cultural engagement and support
• Provide transparent and vetted course curriculum, especially leveraging the flexibility of direct-enroll study abroad at prestigious institutions
• Make available tactile, pre-professional opportunities
  o science laboratory work (at no extra charge)
  o professional clubs/societies for networking
  o internships
Thoughts?

Taking risks

Giving it time

Connecting the dots

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