

Focus Group Questions Spring 2002, Non-Study Abroad Students

Thank you all for coming. We're very excited that you've made some time in your day to get together and speak with us about study abroad. Before we jump into the questions, let me just provide you with a little background about this process.

Purpose of the Sessions:

As part of a Bush Foundation grant, the University is working to integrate study abroad throughout the U of M, systemwide, in all colleges and departments. Your feedback and insights today concerning study abroad will be critical to that process. Basically, we are interested in finding out what you think about study abroad, and maybe more importantly, why you think what you do.

Before we begin, there are some basic ground rules that we'd like to go over with you so that this session can be productive and interesting for all involved.

- There are no wrong answers during this conversation, and we hope that you will be as candid as possible. All conversations within this room will remain confidential, and we won't use any names in our final reports. We also ask that whatever is said in this room remains in this room.
- You don't need to agree with others, but we ask that you listen respectfully as others share their views. We're hoping for a good, lively discussion here today, so feel free to respectfully disagree.
- Some quick logistical concerns. We ask that you turn off your cellular phones and pagers during the session. If you must respond to a call, please do so as quietly as possible and rejoin the group as quickly as you can.
- You may have noticed the tape-recorder. We will be taping the session because it's sometimes hard to get all of the information down that we would like to. We're really interested in what you have to say, and want to make sure that we can record all of the helpful things that are discussed here today.
- Finally, keep in mind that we're interested in both positive and negative comments, and that the negative comments are sometime the most helpful and interesting. With that said, let's begin.

Opening Questions

(0:00) To start off with please jot down on a piece of paper the first three things that come to mind when you think of the words “Study Abroad.” Now, please introduce yourself, tell us your major, and read off your list? We’ll be jotting down your thoughts on this flipchart.

(0:05) Take some time to look at the flip chart and think about what general themes and issues appear there. Why did you think those items came to your minds? What do you think this suggests about your thinking as it relates to study abroad?

Transition Questions

(0:15) Let’s change gears for a moment. What information have you received about study abroad?

(prodding options)

- orientation
- advisers
- professors
- posters, catalogs
- friends

(0:25) What would you need to hear or learn before you would participate in study abroad?

Key Questions

(0:30) How do you think study abroad is different then travelling abroad? Do you think they are different?

(0:45) How do you see study abroad fitting into your undergraduate education? Why in those ways?

Ending questions

(0:50) What don’t you know about study abroad that you would like to know?

(0:55) Are there any issues that we’ve missed?