

Community Discussion Series

Supporting Students from Diverse Backgrounds In-Country



diversityabroad



#DiversityAbroad

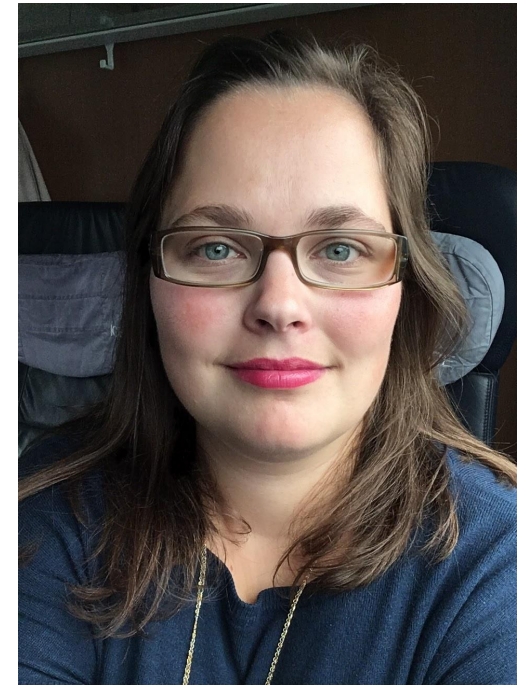
Presenters



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Session Overview

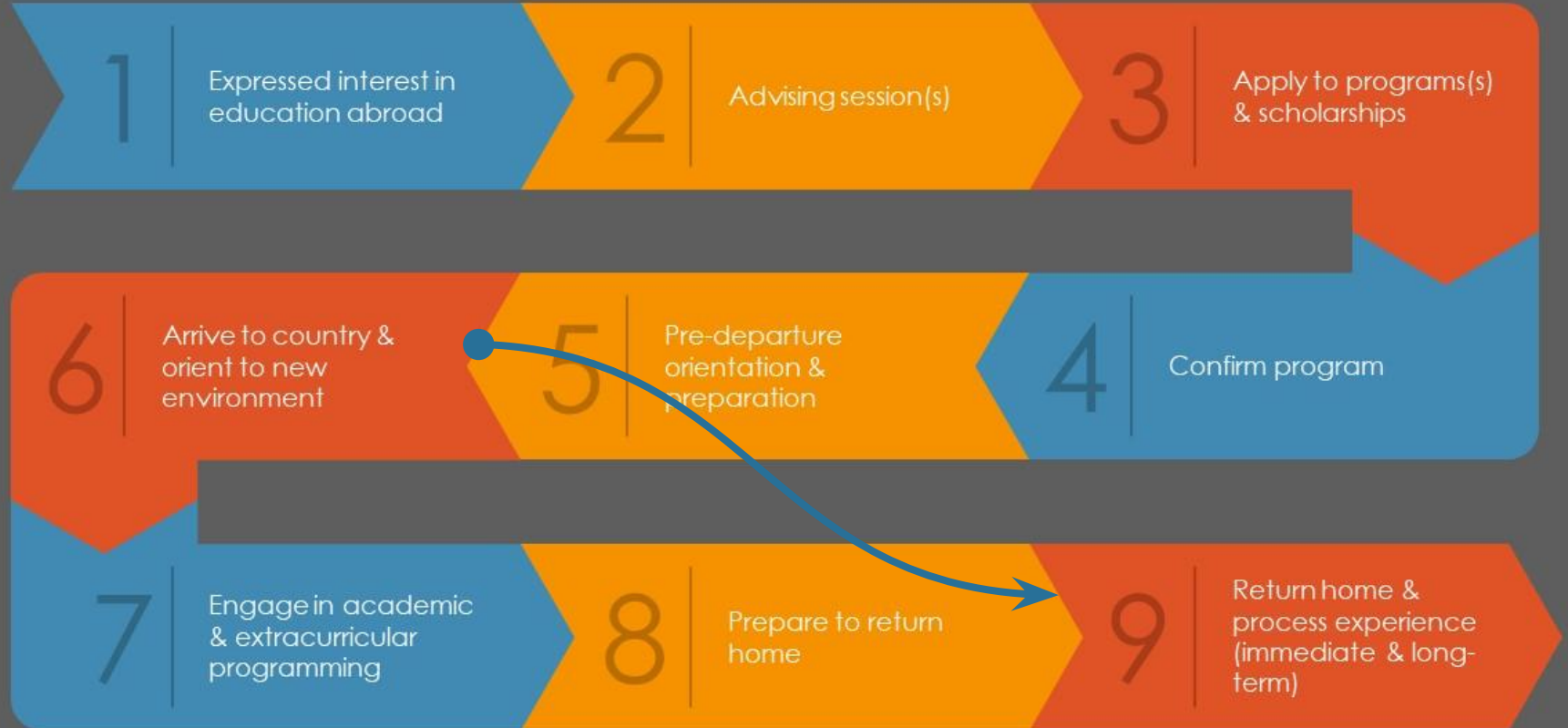
- Discuss the importance of incorporating diversity & inclusive good practices holistically while in-country
- Explore the role of identity and social experience in study abroad
- Identify advising and onsite support strategies to facilitate a positive learning environment for diverse & underrepresented students in-country
- Share resources



Disclaimers

- Today's conversation will not be all encompassing.
- Our language and our perspectives will be biased.
- We hope to crowdsource the knowledge of those connected to the conversation!

Study Abroad Process & Discussing Diversity & Inclusion



Holistic View of In-Country Support

*	Data and assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What data is being collected and by whom?• What questions are students being asked before, during, and after they have gone abroad?• How are assessment results reported and shared?
*	Programming, excursions, and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is there access to low or no cost options?• Are there resources centered on diverse communities at the program site?
*	Professional development and staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are staff/faculty prepared to manage intra-group dynamics and discussions that might touch on difficult topics?• Are staff/faculty prepared to have discussions about different experiences students may be having while abroad?
*	Curriculum and program design	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is the pedagogy and approach to teaching inclusive?• Do the readings and case studies reflect a range of voices?• Are there opportunities to provide reasonable accommodations for students with learning and cognitive disabilities?
*	Collaboration and partnership with the local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are local stakeholders consulted and engaged at every point of the program development and implementation?• Does the program design consider the impact on the local community?

The Important Role of Social Identity & the Social Experience

- Understanding Culture and Social Identities
 - Intersectionality
- How Will Students Identify Themselves Abroad?
- Acknowledge the possibility of their identity changing in-country
- 1st “Othering” Cultural Experience

“The last thing a fish would ever notice would be water.”
~ Ralph Linton

Road Map

1. How To Support Student From Diverse Backgrounds?
2. Inclusive & Diverse Program Design & In-Country Academic Curriculum
3. Continue to Build Community & International Partnerships



#1 How To Support Students From Diverse Backgrounds?

- **Facilitate Institutional Pre-Departure Orientations**
 - Establish Campus Wide Inclusive Pre-Departure Orientations
 - Practice Targeted & Strategic Recruitment Efforts For “Hidden Populations”
 - Ex. Applications Process-Pell Grant Eligibility
 - Study Abroad Courses; Scholar and Fellow recipients
- **Prepare Participants To Engage In Cultural Relativism**
 - Discuss Norms of Behavior and Health & Safety In-Country
 - Allergies & Medications, Accommodations, Healthy Sexual Behaviors, Safety W/ Social Activities, Encountering Harassment & Discrimination; Alcohol & Drugs; Homestays
- **Enhance Communication Between the School & Host Country**
 - Ex. Student Video Profiles & Family Questionnaires
 - Establish a Buddy System & Facilitate Co-Dependence

#2 Having An Inclusive & Diverse Program Design & In Country Curriculum

*Host Country Faculty and In-Country Staff

- **How to Engage in Targeted & Affirmative Recruitment of Diverse Participants?**
 - Is it possible to request a female speaker? A Religious minority?
 - Are marginalized community members or “non-experts” involved?
 - Do speakers share a commonality with your students?
 - Personal Tour Guides/Translators
- **Are Speakers Prepared To Address Students From Diverse Backgrounds?**
 - Important role of Faculty & In-Country Staff
 - Ex. Candomble’- White Priest
 - Haiti Experience (Staying w/ Privileged Haitians)



Academic Curriculum Design & Logistics

How Can Programs Create Inclusive Cultural Exchanges And Excursions That Reflect Student Populations?

- Visit Religious Sanctuaries & disability service industries, LGBT interests, & other diverse and inclusive sites that reflect student populations.
 - Ex. HIV clinics, Potluck w/ Native +English Speaking Peers, BLM Book Signing Brazil
 - Engage with diverse school-aged peers when possible
 - Provide information for local events/celebrations/resources
- Things to Consider: issues of mobility, rates & costs, area/location of events, alternative spots to eat, different forms of entertainment, communication, emergency contacts etc.
 - Ex. Physical Body Scar (Beach/Water Activity)
 - Metro PCS Cell Phone-Communications



#3 Building A Sense of Community & International Partnerships

Feed student's need to “do something”; “Never Forget”, “Want to go back”

Use Students Diverse Networks/Talents/Skills/Interests To Foster Lasting Relationships

- Assign journals/reflections/blog/pictorial reports/School Newspaper
- Hispanic Student Organization translate passages into English of text to send to local school visited.
- Artistic students create posters that reflect positive images of Afro-Brazilians (emphasis on darker skin Afro-Brazilians) to send to local community center.
- Greek letter orgs. “adopt” service project and host clothes/book drives for young girls to send back to host country annually.

Inclusion Approaches in Faculty-led Programs: In-country Perspective

- Rules and regulations issued by home-universities
- Communication is key – relevant information needs to be exchanged
 - What information is gathered?
 - What counts as relevant information on both sides?
- Pre-departure: establish a comprehensive flow of information
- In-country staff: limitations in housing, transportation, activities: consider alternatives

Catalogue Programs

Abroad Location

- Abroad location sets the rules and standards
- For providers and partner universities: can minimum standard be set for all locations? How do they compare to US-institutions?
- Heterogeneous groups are the rule, how can all students have a worthwhile experience?

Application

- Students have only online contact with advisor/in-country staff – barrier
- Disclosing information during application -
 - Mental/physical disability
 - Which disabilities are recognized abroad eg learning disabilities
 - Transgender students

Questions & Discussion

Think about these question in the context of your work

- 1) How are your current in-country protocols reflective of considerations for all students?
- 2) What resources/relationships do we currently have that would allow us to implement this right now?
- 3) What resources/relationships outside of your institution could be leveraged to support your students?
- 4) How can US-based staff help in cultivating an inclusive climate for all students in-country?

Resources

Diversity Abroad Online Resources

Diversityabroad.com website for students from diverse backgrounds

Diversity Abroad Network website for professionals: resources; learning opportunities

- [Country Diversity Climate Notes](#) (*member resource*); In-Country perspectives welcome
- [Advising Guides](#) (*member resource*)
- [Diversity & Inclusion Resource Center](#): In-Country File Library (*member resource*)

General Resources - Diversity & Inclusion

- [Mobility International USA](#); Knowing what to ask - [MIUSA forms](#)
- [2016 Annual Report on Hate Crimes](#) - OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human rights (ODIHR)
- [LGBTQIA rights/resources](#) on an (incomplete) map of the world - UC Davis
- [International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association](#) (IGLTA)
- [Islamic Finder](#) - Identifies prayer times around the world
- [Kosher Delight](#) - Information on synagogues around the world

What's Next...

Full Recording of Community Discussion

- Added to D&I Resource Center for Members

PowerPoint Presentation & Resource Sheet

- Sent to All Participants

6th Annual Diversity Abroad Conference

- April 7-10, 2018 in Miami, Florida

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