



Ecuador

First Year Experience Study Abroad

Presenters



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Why FYE Study Abroad?

- * Offer student development opportunity early
- * Connects students of similar interests early
- * Provide a forum to connect with faculty/staff early
- * Afford the opportunity to talk about study abroad with parents during the recruitment/orientation process
- * Infiltrate the student population with peers who have had the experience, thereby increasing generalized self efficacy to study abroad
- * Point of competitive advantage compared to other similar programs
- * Help students recognize how all of the diverse aspects of our college come together
- * Early study of contemporary issue related to our field to build upon rather than waiting until the end of a program to reflect
- * Connect student to the College
- * Increase study abroad participation





Why is winter break the first year so important?

- * Requiring tangible planning when parents are involved at orientation is important
- * The pre-departure course during the first term is the vehicle for allowing students to connect with faculty, staff and fellow students
- * Choosing to study abroad during the first break further cleaves students from their past and establishes more independence
- * Students are not as distracted by other college experiences and are more willing to take on this adventure.
- * They don't have doubts yet. Capture the naiveté!
- * For winter break 2014-15, the program will need to move to January due to the break schedule.

Who travels abroad?

- * The socioeconomic status of students varies. Some know no better, some have additional scholarship funds.
- * Our incoming freshmen class has ranged from 230-300 during the same time.
 - * 2008 (Mexico)-14
 - * 2009 (Ecuador)- 16
 - * 2010 (Ecuador)- 10
 - * 2011 (Ecuador)-18
 - * 2012 (Ecuador)-18
 - * 2013 (Ecuador)- 31



How it is organized

- * Creating a new study abroad program starts up to eighteen months in advance.
- * Must have buy-in with academic affairs.
- * Market it in conjunction with your admissions liaison in your College.
 - * Visit days, newsletters, recruitment brochures, websites
- * Include information during orientation



Plan pre-departure course

- * Typically one credit hour
- * Cover general concepts and travel logistics
- * Guest speakers from around campus to brief students on history, economy, and other issues
 - * Regional Studies Offices
 - * College of Veterinary Medicine
 - * Economics
 - * Field trip (to practice)

Tom Price re: sustainability/composting



Where should it take place

- * A location in which you can find significance related to your academic unit (so anywhere will work)
- * Keep it within a reasonable airfare (central/South America/Caribbean)
- * This generation is very interested in making a difference; tie in a means for exploring social justice issues



What should be included in the design?

- * All costs, except incidentals (airfare, lodging, food)
- * Strategic planning of activities, with time to adjust and a “break” in the middle
- * Evaluation of the program annually
- * A balance of culture and academic content
- * Guided reflection



Special First Year Considerations

- * Parents- they need to be involved, regardless of your views of independence
 - * It is also an opportunity to help parents understand independence
- * They are typically psycho-social development “Stage 2”
 - * They need a lot of direction and details
- * How will they use it in their degree regardless of major
 - * Some may change their major and they will need it to count



Comments from Past Students



- * 100% of respondents are currently enrolled or have graduated
- * 88% are still within or graduated from the College of FAES
- * 78% indicated that they either studied abroad again or intent to study abroad again

How do you feel this study abroad experience affected the rest of your College experience?

- * Jumped started my global awareness, skill not taught in high school Showed me I loved to travel. Boosted my confidence.
- * The experience was one of the greatest I have had at the Ohio State University because it opened my eyes, heart, and mind to the world around me. It helped me gain confidence in my studies.



How do you feel this study abroad experience affected the rest of your College experience?



- * The First Year Experience in Mexico inspired me to continue pursuing study abroad opportunities throughout my remaining three and a half years at Ohio State. This trip showed me how a single week abroad can spark a lifelong interest in world travel and lead to friendships that persist beyond one's undergraduate years.
- * It opened me up to the world of agriculture outside the US and got me interested in studying food systems around the world. I also got to know a lot of new friends in CFAES that I still am in contact with. Finally, this trip made me view people of other cultures as more similar to myself than I had previously perceived.
- * No effect, it was just a good time.

Did you adjust your academic or career goals as a result of this study abroad?

- * 61% of students indicated that it did not change their goals
- * Two indicated that the program kept them in a major that was ultimately not the major they chose.
- * Three indicated that the program reinforced their choice of major.
- * Yes, I was introduced to forms of my career goals I had not originally thought about.



Open Comments

- * This trip has affected me in so many ways, I have made a push to start being more social thanks to all the fun I had meeting new friends. I have also made a real effort to start eating healthier and working out. The best part about the trip by far was getting to know the instructors, it has really helped me realize they are normal interesting people helping me feel more open to approaching professors with questions.



Open Comments



- * This study abroad was very enlightening to me because I was able to see another culture as it actually is, not as it is portrayed in a class. []It especially showed me how we consider other countries inferior but in reality they consider themselves perfectly capable of solving their own problems and don't really want our assistance. It also made me understand how everything we do here, even as common an action as buying gas for our cars, affects people in other countries in ways we do not know.

For More Information

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