Global Education Office

Education Abroad – Program Development
Information Session for Faculty
Introductions
Why Study Abroad?

(and what is “study abroad”?)
SUCCESS!
Jobs become more elusive for recent U.S. college grads - NY Fed

Recent College Grads Face Tough Job Market
Graduates Have Positive Outlook on Job Market, But Should They?
By Heidi B. Perelman
March 9

New Study: 2014 Graduating Class Faces Extremely Tough Job Market
May 9, 2014 8:01 am  Category: Memo Pad  6 Comments

Job outlook for 2014 college grads puzzling

Overqualified and Underemployed: The Job Market Waiting for Graduates

What millennials don't know about the job market
Kelley Holland, Special to CNBC  8:33 am EDT May 10, 2014
A study abroad student will often be described as...

...as a result of studying abroad.

- Independent
- Appreciative
- Focused
- Adaptable
- Assertive
- Understanding
- Open-minded
- Self-confident
- Self-reliant
- Flexible
- Resilient
- Perseverant
- Unflappable
- Self-reliant
- Inquisitive
- Attentive
- Non-judgmental
- Wise
- Concerned
- Observant
- Risk-taker
- Achiever
- Global-minded
- Self-knowledgeable
Some Background
Nationally...

In 2012/13

289,408

U.S. students studied abroad for academic credit

1987/88 62k
1991/92 71k
1997/98 114k
2002/03 175k
2007/08 262k
2012/13 289k

The number of U.S. students studying abroad grew by 2% over the prior year and now is at record high.

Undergraduate Study Abroad

9% of U.S. undergraduates studied abroad before graduating.

Duration of Study Abroad

- **60%**
  - Short-term (summer or eight weeks or less)

- **37%**
  - Mid-length (one or two quarters or one semester)

- **3%**
  - Long-term (academic or calendar year)

Where do students go?

Host Regions of U.S. Study Abroad Students

- North America: 1%
- South America: 16%
- Europe: 53%
- Africa: 5%
- Asia: 12%
- Australia: 4%
- Multiple destinations: 7%
Leading Destinations of U.S. Study Abroad Students

United Kingdom 13%

China 5%

Japan 2%

Costa Rica 3%

Ireland 3%

Germany 3%

Australia 3%

France 6%

Spain 9%

Italy 10%

Other Destinations 43%

United Kingdom, Italy and Spain host 32% of U.S. students.

At VCU...

[Graph showing enrollment trends from 2003-2004 to 2013-2014 for Overall and Faculty-Led programs]
Barriers At VCU...

• *Real barriers vs. Perceived barriers*

• Fear
• Finances
• Academic Fit
• Family & Friends

• LACK OF AWARENESS
Conclusions

• # of study abroad students is growing
• # still represents a small percentage
• Short-term study abroad is BOOMING!
• Destinations are still traditional, but there is growth in non-traditional destinations
• Also, there’s not much diversity
• VCU joined initiative in February 2014
• Base number: 434 (2012-2013)
• Goal: 868 by 2019-2020
HOW?

That’s where YOU (our faculty) come in 😊
HOW?

1. Help us promote options that already exist:
   - Faculty-led programs
   - ISEP
   - Partnership and departmental exchanges
   - Affiliates & alternative programs
HOW?

2. Create NEW programming
   – Accompanied or unaccompanied
First Things First: Considerations

• What are the goals of your academic unit?
• What is YOUR expertise?
• What study abroad options already exist for students in your school or department?
• Where do students want to go? (Market research may be helpful.)
• What experiences should students have before they graduate?
Priorities

- High capacity
- Sustainable
- Affordable
- High impact
- Multi-disciplinary
- Engaging
- Immersive
Other Considerations

• **WHO?**
  – Faculty
  – Audience
  – Contacts abroad

• **WHEN?**
  – Length
  – Time period
  – Itinerary

• **WHERE?**
  – Safety
  – Your connections
  – Student interest
  – Language barrier?
  – Cost
  – Housing/facilities

• **WHAT?**
  – Courses/credits
  – Cost
  – Experience
  – Immersion, not bubble
Spectrum of Program Models

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Independent</th>
<th>More Structured</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transfer credits; Students directly enroll at host</td>
<td>VCU credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied</td>
<td>Accompanied</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students pay host</td>
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<td>Students pay VCU</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent programs with less structure</td>
<td>Group programs with more structure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower cost</td>
<td>Higher cost</td>
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Enrollment

Faculty Role

Payment

Structure
Program Models – Examples of Successful Study Abroad Programs

- **Cyprus, Greece, Czech Republic and Spain**: International Consulting Program, School of Business

- **Negril, Jamaica**: Alternative Spring Break for Community Health Promotion, Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences

- **Florence, Italy**: Design Summer Program, VCUarts

- **Gamboa, Panama**: Avian Field Ecology, Center for Environmental Studies

- **Cordoba, Spain**: University of Cordoba, Direct-Enroll Summer Study Abroad

- **London, UK**: University of Westminster Fashion Merchandising Exchange
Final Thoughts

• Building a CULTURE of study abroad at VCU; successful programs are owned by entire department/school, not by single faculty members; even better if other units involved

• Proposals to *lead* 2015-2016 programs due in fall; all other programs can be initiated at any time

• Start NOW!

• Remember: Generation Study Abroad goal
GEO is here to help!

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