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

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 a.m. EDT May 10, 2014
SKILLS
A study abroad student will often be described as...

...as a result of studying abroad.

VCU Global Education Office

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
Some Background
Nationally...

In 2012/13

289,408
U.S. students studied abroad for academic credit

62k   71k   114k   175k   262k   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%
Europe: 53%
Asia: 12%
South America: 16%
Africa: 5%
Australia: 4%
Multiple destinations: 7%

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

» Approx. 630 students/year (for credit)
» 28% semester/year; 71% short-term
» Destinations vary but similar to national trend
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
Campus life and athletics

NCAA Division I men’s and women’s athletic teams

More than 1 million hours of community service

More than 500 student organizations

Our Commitment

» Starting point in 2011-2012: 434 students

» Goal by 2020: 900+ students

» Progress in 2013-2014: 577 students (32% increase from 2011-2012)
HOW?

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

**Enrollment**
- Independent: Transfer credits; Students directly enroll at host
- More Structured: VCU credits

**Faculty Role**
- Unaccompanied: Students pay host
- More Structured: Accompanied

**Payment**
- Independent programs with less structure
- Students pay VCU
- More Structured: Group programs with more structure

**Structure**
- Lower cost
- Higher cost
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
Proposal process

Studio Abroad

Materials to submit:

- Proposal
- Budget Form
- CV
- Dean’s approval
- Syllabi
Timeline for 2016-2017

2016

July 15    Deadline for winter session and spring break programs

July - September
- Initial meetings with interested professors
- Learning GEO procedures and faculty leader’s responsibilities
- Faculty leaders develop programs

September 15    Proposal deadline for new and repeat programs; final budgets (approved by GEO fiscal manager) must be included in proposal

November 1-15    Registration deadlines for winter and spring programs

October 15    Application deadlines are set, course offerings are finalized, photos and all information for promotional materials submitted

End of semester    Webpage for each program should be live on Education Abroad site; begin processing applications; flyers printed

Dec.- March    Winter and spring programs’ faculty training, pre-departure meetings, travel authorizations, payments to vendors

2017

February 1-April 15    Summer programs student application deadlines

February    Spring study abroad fair featuring faculty-led programs

Mid/late March    Faculty leader training

March/April    Pre-departure orientations held by faculty leaders; “Study Abroad Meeting” hosted by Education Abroad; Financial aid applications are available in EA; EA registers students in courses on Banner; Travel authorizations prepared in Chrome River; Administration issues, promotions issues, liability issues addressed; Reimbursement requests, vendor invoices due to EA fiscal staff; sign travel authorizations.

June, July and August . . . Programs take off!

August    Summer programs’ student evaluations are collected and shared
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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Questions?