

High Impact Practices: Study Abroad



What is a high impact practice?

- According to AAC&U, **High-Impact Practices** (HIPs) are techniques and designs for teaching and learning that have proven to be beneficial for student engagement and successful learning among students from many backgrounds.

Open Doors 19

- 341,751 U.S. students studied abroad for academic credit, representing a 2.7% growth from the previous year, and totaling about 10% of all U.S. undergraduate students
- STEM, Business, and Social Sciences were the most popular fields of study
- 32.5% study on semester or year-long programs; 67.5% on short-term programs.
- 54.9% study in Europe, 14.8% in Latin America & the Caribbean, 11.3% in Asia, 4.2% in Africa, 4.3% in Oceania, 0.5% in North America, 2.1% in the Middle East/North Africa, 7.9% in Multiple destinations
- 67% women, 33% men
- 70% White
- Top countries where students study: UK, Italy, Spain, France, and Germany. The UK, Italy, and Spain combined host nearly 32% of U.S. students.

Stetson Numbers

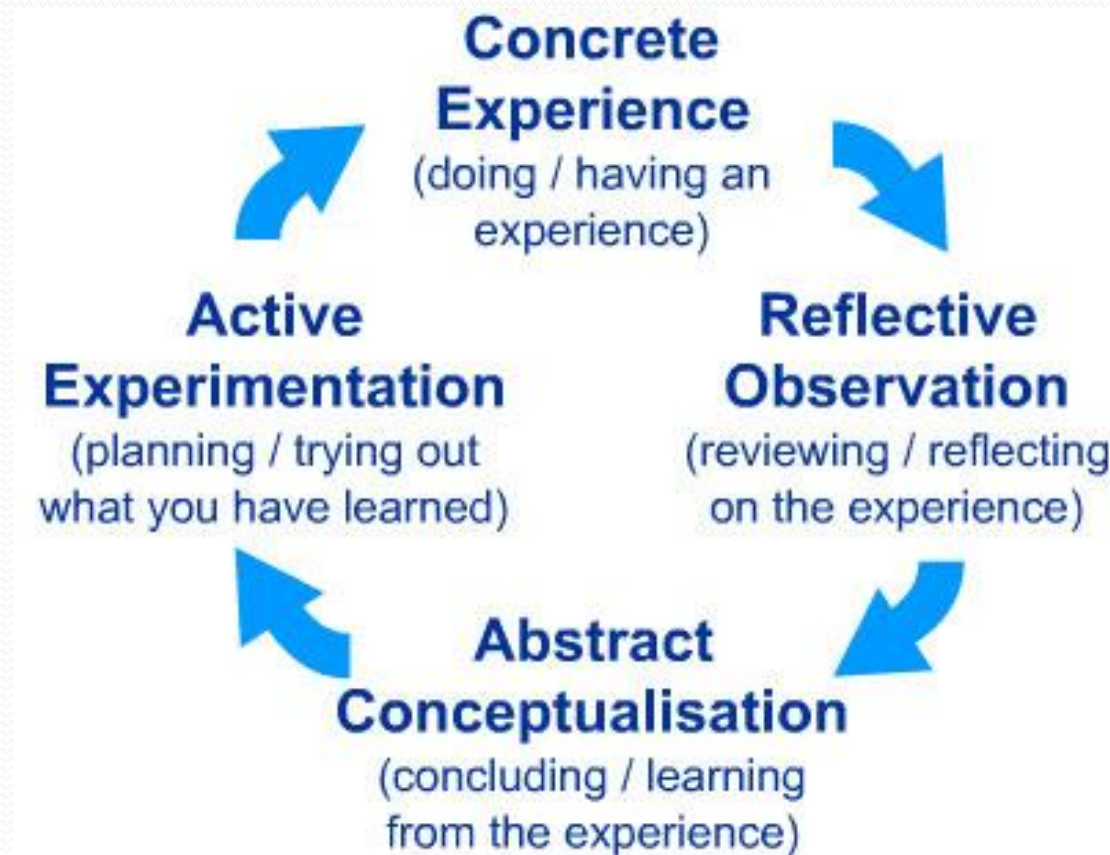
- In 2018-19, 273 students studied abroad (DeLand & Celebration campuses only)
- Out of the 273:
 - 15% participate in semester or year-long programs, 85% in short-term programs
 - 67% female, 33% male
 - 26% students of color
 - 63% study in Europe, 11% in Asia, 18% in Latin America, 6% in the Middle East, and less than 1% in Africa and less than 1% in Oceania
 - 43.5% SOBA, 10% SOM, 46.5% CAS

Study Abroad? Or Travel Abroad?



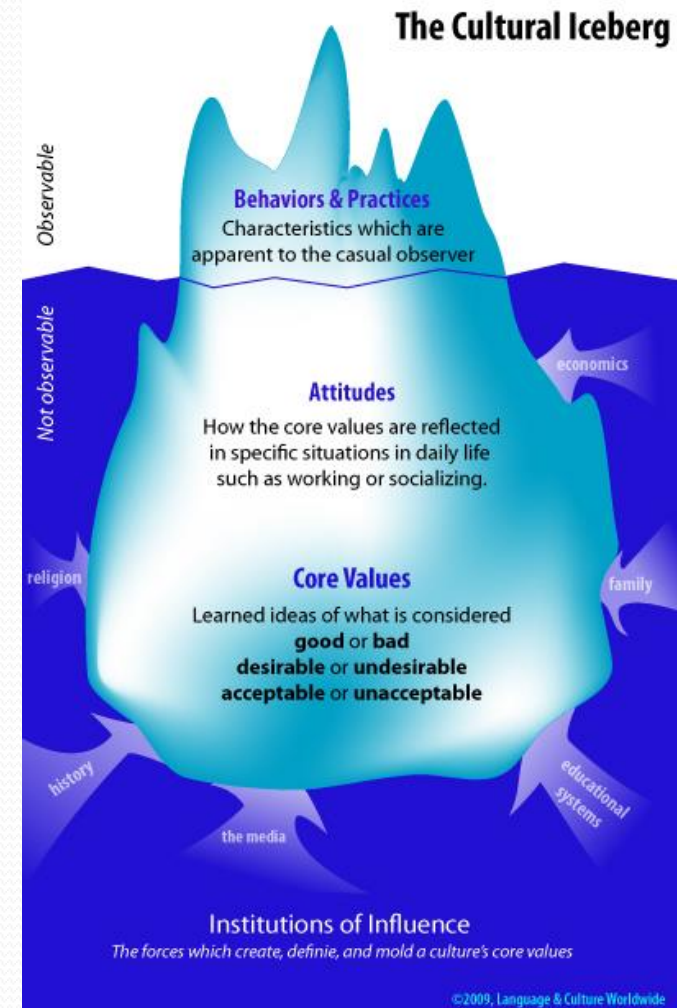
Deeper Learning

- Kolb's Experiential Learning Model



Benefits to Studying Abroad

- Increased Intercultural Competence
 - “Education abroad has become an increasingly important educational program (experience) in global learning and development, intercultural competence, intercultural maturity, and intercultural sensitivity of students” (Braskamp, Braskamp, & Merrill, 2009, p. 101)
 - “Student engagement in education abroad experiences enhances global learning and development, which we argue should now become an important and even the core of holistic student development, a goal of almost every undergraduate college or university”(p. 111)



More Benefits

- More likely to persist to graduation, More likely to improve GPA upon return
 - GLOSSARI data
 - GPAs prior to study abroad averaged 3.24 and post 3.30
 - 49.6% likely to complete in four years compared to 42.1% in the control group, and 24% in the University of Georgia system overall
 - the six year graduation rate jumped to 88.7% for study abroad students, 83.4% in the control group, and 49.3% state wide.
 - Four-year graduation rates for African American students who studied abroad were 31% higher than they were for African Americans in the control group. In general, non-white students who studied abroad persisted at a rate 18% higher than those in the control group

Career Benefits

- 84% of students found that studying abroad helped them build valuable job skills, like foreign language skills, intercultural competence, adaptability, tolerance for ambiguity, and more (IES Abroad Study)
- 90% of their alumni secured a job within the first six months after graduation or went on to graduate school (IES Abroad Study)
- 80% of study abroad alumni reported that their study abroad experience allowed them to better adapt to diverse work environments (AIFS Study)


How to Deepen the Study Abroad Experience

- Reflection – pre, during, post
- Returnee programming
- Asking about their experiences – and really listening
- Helping them process their experience and use it to market themselves
- Building more high-impact opportunities into the traditional study abroad programs, when possible – things like research, case studies, homestays, etc.
- Encourage them to go!


Student Quotes

- “Studying abroad in Switzerland was a fantastic opportunity. In between intellectual and cultural experiences, I met global health professionals and role models that influenced the manner in which I perceive myself. My experience in Geneva has given me the confidence I needed to stay on this path and reaffirm my passion for the field of global health. This is something that you hardly ever learn within the walls of a classroom.”

-Vincenzo Cornacchione, studied abroad in Geneva, Switzerland with Asal Johnson

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- “...I was able to do the case study, I was able to work with a local business on an international scale and that directly correlated into me being able to get this job that I currently have.”

-Meghan Moran, studied abroad in Scotland with Carol Azab

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- “While studying abroad in South Korea and Taiwan, I was not only able to engage with other cultures beyond learning about them in the classroom, but was also able to use my experiences and guiding lessons to understanding my career. These lessons meant so much, in fact, that I have decided to focus my career on Taiwan-China economic relations and I will be moving back to Taiwan long-term after graduation.”

-Zoe Weaver, studied abroad on semester exchange programs in Seoul, South Korea and Taipei, Taiwan



Questions?