

Post-Study Abroad Survey 2012 Summer

Brief description of project:

The Learning Abroad Office facilitates opportunities for students to participate in a wide variety of opportunities across the disciplines and across the globe. This survey measures the effectiveness of our office's ability to market these programs as well as to provide the information necessary for success abroad. Since our office staff is not on-site during the programs, this survey also aids us in evaluating the role of the faculty directors and the students' overall academic and personal experience.

Who was asked to complete survey:

Students who participated on a faculty-directed Learning Abroad Program or on an internship program during summer 2012.

Response Rate: 51.4% (217 of 422)

Administration Type: Campus Labs mailing

Summary of Key Findings:

Students learned about learning abroad opportunities at the University of Utah through a variety of mediums though those with the highest frequency were the Learning Abroad fair, Learning Abroad website, classrooms visits, and program promotion by faculty members.

Support Services

Pre-departure orientations were the most frequently utilized support service provided by the Learning Abroad Office. Respondents found that the overall information presented was informative and they appreciated having the opportunity to meet other participants. Areas of improvement included the desire for shorter orientation sessions with more flexible meeting times.

Faculty Directors

Students found faculty directors to be extremely effective in the areas of cultural appreciation, out of class activities/excursions, personal assistance, and personal assistance.

Excursions and activities included in the program

88.95% of respondents were either satisfied or extremely satisfied. Responses for areas of improvement were too varied to draw any distinct conclusions

Course/Workload

Approximately 50% of respondents found the courses/workload to be similar to that on campus at the University of Utah. While respondents were generally pleased with the amount of coursework and the level of difficulty, others commented that they would have preferred to spend less time in-class or studying so that they had more time to engage those at home or in the community.

International Setting

Students found the international setting to be very beneficial to the learning experience. Language and cultural immersion provided additional opportunities to apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom. They stated that the international setting was key to language acquisition and increased cultural competency.

Housing

85.02% of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the in-country housing. Location and cleanliness were the most frequently noted areas in need of improvement though most of these comments were followed by statements of comparison to American standards.

Scholarships

Approximately 48% of respondents stated they received a scholarship.

Actions Taken:

Marketing efforts were bolstered to increase awareness across campus by holding information sessions addressing specific aspects of studying abroad (i.e. money matters, safety and security, exchange programs, etc.) Learning Abroad Coordinators and Peer Advisors also participated in new student orientation, conducted classroom visits, and collaborated with departments across campus by providing financial and staff support. Additionally, the Learning Abroad Office created supplemental marketing materials such as brochures, bookmarks, and general information flyers to distribute at events occurring throughout the year.

To meet the demands of the diverse student population, the pre-departure orientation was moved from in-person sessions to on-line modules through Canvas. This allows students to complete orientation as their schedule allows and presents the information and policies in a matter that is easier to navigate and maintain.

Which department goals does this project align with?

The Office Global Engagement is currently creating their strategic plan.

Which Student Affairs goals does this project align with?

This project supports global citizenship, develops strategies for continuity planning, increases assessment methods and usage of data for strategic planning and research/development opportunities, and develops formal and informal reciprocal partnerships with campus and community constituents.