The Learning in Short-Term Volunteering: Meeting education abroad mission & goals
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Short-Term Program Literature
- Presence of intercultural mentor can facilitate the skill of developing emotional distance.
- Importance of pre & post program activities.
- Provide structure and guidance to encourage critical thinking and intercultural development
- Incorporation of pre & post program assessment is needed to help measure and document the changes occurring as a result of these experiences.
  - Kehl, K., & Morris, J. (2008)

Non-Credit Program Literature
- Importance of critical thinking in experiential education.
- To truly think critically students must conceptualize, analyze, synthesize, evaluate, consider, and/or apply information to reach a conclusion or answer a question.
- Incorporate guiding question(s):
  - “What factors affect ______?”
  - “Under what conditions does _____ affect _____?”
  - Pagano, M., & Roselle, L. (2009)
- Importance of learning how to be a participant observer.

5 Steps to Success
- Identify the learning goals &/or mission that will guide the development of your program
- Seek out local, national, or international partners to connect you with a host community abroad
- Market to wide range of academic disciplines
- Identify role of intercultural mentor
- Purposefully incorporate reflection & evaluation methods from creation to inception

Goal-based Evaluation
- Expand their knowledge of the world through multiple academic perspectives.
  - I feel that the program helped me to expand my knowledge and understanding of the world.
- Gain awareness and appreciation of their host cultures and deepen awareness of their own culture.
  - I feel that the program helped me to develop and enhance my self-awareness, by deepening my understanding of my own culture.
- Identify and communicate the impact of their experience abroad personally, academically and professionally.
  - I feel that this program has helped me to identify and communicate how my experience abroad has impacted me personally, academically and professionally.
- Become more self-reliant and self-aware.
  - I feel that the program has helped me to develop and enhance my sense of independence and self-reliance.
- Navigate differences more effectively.
  - I feel that the program has helped me to navigate differences more effectively.

Learning Abroad Center learning goals & corresponding evaluation questions

Participant Ratings from Program Evaluation
I feel that the program helped me to develop awareness and appreciation of my host culture
- Average Participant Rating: 4.6
I feel that the program helped me to expand the cultural perspective I use when working within my academic discipline
- Average Participant Rating: 4.2
I feel that the program has helped me to develop and enhance my sense of independence and self-reliance
- Average Participant Rating: 4.6
I feel that the program has helped me to navigate differences more effectively
- Average Participant Rating: 4.4
I feel that the program has helped me to identify and communicate how my experience abroad has impacted me personally, academically and professionally
* I feel that the program helped me to develop and enhance my self-awareness, by deepening my understanding of my own culture
- Average Participant Rating: 4.3
I feel that the program helped me to develop and enhance my self-awareness, by deepening my understanding of my own culture
- Average Participant Rating: 4.2
I feel that the program helped me to expand my knowledge and understanding of the world
- Average Participant Rating: 4.6

*Data accounts for 66.6% or respondents. 33.3% not included due to inconsistency in the wording of the question.

Successful Volunteer Program