

Changing Learning: Integrating Study Abroad, OIP 230, 10:30am

How to better learn what Georgetown students learn from study abroad, and how they integrate it into their education

Georgetown founded as an International Institution (first documents published in English, French, Spanish)

Student population includes 1300 international students  
Students study abroad in 40 different countries

Challenge of our generation is to turn Gtown into a global university (President DeGioia)

Learning IS taking place abroad even though it may not be as rigorous as Gtown's  
Students deserve to know that their international experience will be meaningful and will come to play in their on-campus experience

Could be argued that study abroad at Georgetown needs to be reinvented  
How can we make gradual and consistent improvement in the Georgetown study abroad experience?

Current stats:

127 programs in 39 countries—Georgetown is considered industry leaders in study abroad  
63% go abroad, national average is 10%

Assess beyond an anecdotal level how study abroad is affecting students  
Study abroad is "study," this is how it gets beyond basic international experience

Student research conference for all students who engaged in research overseas?  
Digital Stories initiative for experiences while on study abroad?  
Structured mechanism for recognition of student research

**Discussion** about how to improve study abroad prep:

American Studies students have access to workshops to prepare them for doing field research when they get to Latin America. Provides:

- cultural sensitivity
- knowledge about the situation in the country

What are tools we can prepare students with to do research abroad?

- databases in Lauinger available worldwide, maybe have a library session before they go

Have students meet Fulbrights from other countries

How do we integrate students abroad into classrooms at Georgetown?

- there has to be some mechanism established about what the faculty member does when he or she receives the list of students currently studying abroad in specific class, some provision in the curriculum
- perhaps meet with the student ahead of time to establish how he or she will interact with class
- profs have to know when he or she prepares the syllabus, it has to be planned in advanced, not improvised

- have professors request that students make small movies (digital stories?) maybe about specific topics.  
Ex: how is the Japanese school system different from the American system?
- professor can request places the student should go, topics to cover

Personal abroad experiences/revelations can be different from what's important to scholarship

- let's start thinking about classifications and what they apply to and how things contribute to scholarship
- there has to be a range of learning experiences qualified as personal, scholarly, etc.
- doesn't have to be a thesis or a paper or a video, let's establish different goals and levels
- we have to have different goals about what "integrating into the curriculum" means, let's be flexible in our thinking about that
- would be interesting to showcase range of possibilities of experiences abroad—maybe something at OIP that is constantly showing this sort of thing?

Do programs want to create programs to target study abroad for your students? Are your students well taken care of abroad? Would you like to work with OIP on this?