A Bridge to Being Global Ready

Reflections on Instructor-led Programs
Presenters

Nikki Letawsky Shultz - College of Biological Sciences

Lindsey Lahr - Learning Abroad Center
Who’s in the room?

- Position at the U?
- How do you engage with first year students?
- Do you work with first year programs?
We do not learn from experience ... we learn from reflecting on experience.

– John Dewey
UMN Freshman Seminars

- Department/Collegiate Mandate
- Designed specifically to enhance the first-year experience
- Taught by a faculty member
- Limited to 20 students
- Interaction in a smaller setting
- Connect with a faculty member
- Become involved in a unique area of study.

http://www.ofyp.umn.edu/more/first-year-programs/freshman-seminars
Freshman Seminars Abroad (FSA)

- Spring semester + spring break abroad
- First Year students only
- 20 students max
- 3 credits
- Cohort model
- Build peer group
FSA Learning Outcomes

• To socialize first year students as global professionals who understand that human interaction and culture are relevant to achieving professional goals

• Discover and connect with the University of Minnesota campus and community

• Prepare students to think critically, analyze topics, and appreciate diverse perspectives through pre-departure coursework, learning abroad and guided reflection

• Function as an effective team member by utilizing your personal strengths in a group setting

• Develop an understanding of the importance of future international and intercultural learning
Themes

- Short term programs can have big impacts
- Setting students up for intercultural learning
- Career Integration with Study Abroad
- Quantitative and qualitative evidence
“The results of the pre to post study abroad scores on the Intercultural Development Inventory showed the population made significant gains of 6.7 points, 28% made gains into another stage and overall 73% of students made positive movement on the IDI.”

“Frequent and spontaneous facilitation is the most effective way to increase students' intercultural learning gains during instructor-led study abroad.”

Student Campus Engagement

396 96.55%
79% 92.93%
23.37% 36.14%
Student Campus Engagement

- **2012**: 55% went again
- **2012**: 31.25% for 3rd time
- **2013**: over 41% went again
Student Campus Engagement

Students that Studied Abroad Again

- Short term: 39.6%
- Semester: 56.1%
- Year: 0%
“They are a once in a lifetime opportunity. You become so close so quickly with people who were only classmates the week before. You will form lasting bonds with colleagues and the professor. Additionally, you learn so much about yourself that you never even imagined to be possible. If you have never traveled internationally, it will give you a completely new perspective on both your own country and the world as a whole. I think everyone should have to study abroad at least once in some capacity. The experiences I had abroad have forever given me new knowledge of the world and myself. “

~Innovation & Imagination in Ireland
“It is always so much easier to learn and remember by having a hands on experience than just reading about it.”

~Innovation & Imagination in Ireland
One week? First-year students?
scaffolding
Intercultural Development Continuum
Primary Orientations

Monocultural Mindset

Denial
Misses difference

Polarization
Judges difference

Minimization
Deemphasizes difference

Acceptance
Deeply comprehends difference

Adaptation
Bridges across difference

Intercultural Mindset

Copyright 1998-2014, Mitchell R. Hammer, Ph.D, IDI, LLC
1. experiential learning journal
2. digital story
Newgrange is often viewed as the most significant natural monument of Ireland. Built around 3200 BC, incredible precision, knowledge, and physical strength was necessary at a time before computers and cranes. As such, Newgrange is an incredible ancient example of innovation. Develop a paragraph or two that addresses your impressions of ancient innovation, as opposed to what innovation looks like in modern day.

The Ingenious Dublin tour gave you an understanding of Irish ideas and inventions that have changed the world. What stories or inventions left an impression upon you? What themes did you hear specific to innovation throughout Irish history?

Think back to the first writing assignment you had for this class (Why Ireland?). In a page, summarize your current thinking on why Dublin and/or Ireland is an ideal location to explore creativity and innovation, and how your onsite experience has enhanced and/or changed your understanding. What are some examples from your observations onsite in Dublin and through the course readings?

Who has had the greatest impression/impact upon you and why?
Traveling abroad can be an adventure that evokes many feelings – you may be feeling excited, anxious, prepared, scared, and all at the same time!

Spend a few minutes describing your feelings and thoughts about this experience. What are you looking forward to? What are you nervous about? How have your past travels (or lack there of) had an impact on your comfort?
In thinking about your results from your Intercultural Developmental Inventory, what should you keep in mind during your time in Ireland to enhance your intercultural competency? What are experiences or information that would be helpful for your growth?
The Ingenious Dublin tour gave you an understanding of Irish ideas and inventions that have changed the world. What stories or inventions left an impression upon you? What themes did you hear specific to innovation throughout Irish history?

What connections can you draw between the themes from Ingenious Dublin and those articulated in either of the books assigned for this course? What insights do you have about innovation in Ireland that are beyond those offered in the two books?
Newgrange is often viewed as the most significant natural monument of Ireland. Built around 3200 BC, incredible precision, knowledge and physical strength was necessary at a time before computers and cranes. As such, Newgrange is an incredible ancient example of innovation. Develop a paragraph or two that addresses your impressions of ancient innovation, as opposed to what innovation looks like in modern day.
What have you learned from your classmates during this experience?

Who has had the greatest impression/impact upon you and why?

During your free time... Where did you go? What did you do? What did you see or experience? Who did you meet?

Describe your highlights and impressions of Ireland. Has it changed since you arrived?
Prepare a quick “elevator speech” for an interview about your experience in Ireland. How will you describe what you learned about Ireland, innovation and creativity in general, innovation and creativity within the Irish culture, and what you learned about yourself?

Move beyond “it was great!” to be able to articulate what you gained that will help transfer to your future goals.
“I actually really enjoyed the journal. I can now go back and reference it when I am trying to remember specific details about a particular excursion or day of class.”
“I actually really enjoyed the journal. I can now go back and reference it when I am trying to remember specific details about a particular excursion or day of class.”

Phew.
Wrap-Up

- Continuum of intercultural learning
- Scaffolding needed for First Year Students
- Sophistication of final projects