



Study Abroad: Spring 2021

Learning Outcomes Report

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Presented here are key insights on student learning from the Spring 2021 cohort of study abroad students who took part in our learning outcomes assessment.



"I had gotten lost one night, and my phone had died. It was getting dark and I had no idea where I was. I was starting to panic and felt myself let my anxiety eat away at me. I'm often very shy and hate asking for other people's attention to ask for assistance. But I knew I had to just suck it up, so I mustered up enough courage to ask for help from two strangers in broken Italian. They were very kind and told me exactly where I needed to go and I got home soon after."

> Kennesaw State Student Semester in Florence @ Florence University of the Arts



Program Learning Outcomes

Through a combination of direct enrollment in a CIS Abroad partner institution overseas and participation in our cultural co-curriculum, students will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of global issues, processes, trends, and systems.
- Communicate effectively across cultures, preferably in a second or third language.
- Understand their academic discipline within a global context.
- Have explored and examined their career goals.
- Understand their future career within a global and/or intercultural context.
- Have developed and/or strengthened their career readiness competencies.
- Have developed a greater understanding and appreciation of their own culture(s) and the varied US-American perspectives that exist.
- Demonstrate an appreciation of, and open-mindedness toward, other cultures.
- Exhibit an awareness of, and sensitivity toward, the issues that confront the local community.
- Display an understanding of values, beliefs, traditions, and perspectives different from their own.
- Will be more likely to regularly take into account diversity and cultural differences.
- Have reflected on their own identities, values, beliefs, and cultural frames of reference in a global context and how they influence their relationships with others.
- Be better able to approach life with a high degree of adaptability, independence, and self-confidence.
- Demonstrate the ability to think critically, solve complex problems, and cope effectively with ambiguous and unfamiliar situations.
- Actively seek out new, challenging experiences.

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How the learning was measured

Students were asked to respond to a series of statements that pertained to their learning given the various aspects of their study abroad program. Using a five point Likert scale (1 = strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree), students selected the number that best corresponded with how likely they would be to agree with each statement as a result of their study abroad experience. Examples to support students' evaluation of their learning were requested for select statements.

Personal Learning: 4.5/5

4.6

I can explain how my own identity, values, beliefs, and culture influence my interactions with others.

- I am more readily able to adapt to new and different situations and environments.
- 4.7

My sense of personal independence has increased.

4.3 My overall level of self confidence has increased.

My ability to think critically and solve problems has increased.

I am more able to cope effectively with ambiguous and unfamiliar situations.



4.4

4.1

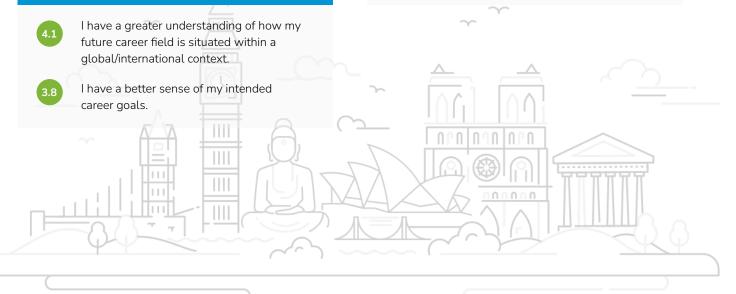
I am more likely to seek out new, challenging experiences.



"I experienced new obstacles of navigating... and figuring out the bus and subway systems. I got myself lost a couple of times but was able to use my broken Korean to ask for help in getting back to where I needed to be. I managed my own spending to balance out food expenses, traveling expenses, ... money I used for buying gifts for my friends and family back home, the money [spent on]... just myself and outings with friends."

Professional Learning: 4.0/5





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Cultural Learning: 4.7/5

- I have reflected on and developed a greater understanding and appreciation of my own culture(s).
- 5.0

I have developed a greater understanding and appreciation of other cultures.



I am more open-minded toward other cultures.



I have a greater awareness of issues that confront my host community.

I have a better understanding of the values, beliefs, traditions, and perspectives of individuals who are different from me.

I will be more likely to take into account diversity and cultural differences in my daily life.

"In Prague, I noticed a lot of people had negative opinions towards the government and the way they have been handling the COVID situation. I learned to become very open minded when hearing others opinions on the COVID regulations and understand their frustrations."

University of South Carolina Student, Semester in Prague @ Charles University



"Through my time in Costa Rica, [I] have been exposed to values, beliefs, traditions, and perspectives that are present. I feel I have a deeper understanding of family value to Ticos and the general belief that, while work is important, so too are the people around you."

Academic Learning: 4.3/5

- I can effectively explain my increased knowledge of global issues, processes, trends, and systems to others.
- My ability to communicate across cultural and/or language differences has improved.
- I can effectively explain to others how the my major and/or minor can be understood from a global perspective.

Elizabethtown College Student Semester in Costa Rica @ Veritas University

"As an education major, I have the opportunity to touch a (sic) the lives of many in my field. The way in which I portray other cultures and global issues is likely to have a direct impact on the way in which my students feel about these things. Thanks to my experience in Costa Rica, I will be better equipped to do this."

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Elizabethtown College Student Semester in Costa Rica @ Veritas University

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