



# Study Abroad: Spring 2021

Learning Outcomes Report

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## Learning Outcomes Report



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.



### Personal Learning



### Professional Learning



### Academic Learning



### Cultural Learning



*"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.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.1 My ability to think critically and solve problems has increased.
- 4.4 I am more able to cope effectively with ambiguous and unfamiliar situations.
- 4.5 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."*

Colorado Christian University Student  
Semester in South Korea @ Sogang University

#### Professional Learning: 4.0/5

- 4.1 I have a greater understanding of how my future career field is situated within a global/international context.
- 3.8 I have a better sense of my intended career goals.

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### Cultural Learning: 4.7/5

4.4

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.

4.8

I am more open-minded toward other cultures.

4.4

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

4.7

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

4.7

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."*

Elizabethtown College Student  
Semester in Costa Rica @ Veritas University

### Academic Learning: 4.3/5

4.2

I can effectively explain my increased knowledge of global issues, processes, trends, and systems to others.

4.6

My ability to communicate across cultural and/or language differences has improved.

4.0

I can effectively explain to others how the my major and/or minor can be understood from a global perspective.

*"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."*

Elizabethtown College Student  
Semester in Costa Rica @ Veritas University

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