Student Reflections on International Learning Experiences
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GOAL Enhance the integration of international perspectives into teaching activities through undergraduate students who have participated in student-centered learning abroad programs.

Student Responses:
“What did you learn about yourself through your international learning experience?”

Personal Development “I have learned that I am actually more independent than I thought I was. The experience has made me realize that I am capable of living in a different country without someone constantly looking out for me and telling me what to do. The experience has helped me determine the strengths that I have as an individual.”

Appreciation of Diversity “I find [many] aspects of their culture to be interesting because they are so different from ours. Their country is surviving just fine on a completely different set up than our own. It made me think about how our country is set up. There are some things we may take for granted, like the “lower” taxes for example. However, there may be another way of approaching things, especially with issues in social security.

Self Awareness “I learned how much more valuable the experience was than I had originally thought. I realized that I learned more things about myself and how I can adapt and perform in certain situations. I knew a lot more about my [research] projects and the Danish culture than I realized. I would be able to answer a number of questions about the Danes and the area [I lived in] than I had realized.”

Global Perspective “I learned that I definitely need to have more knowledge of different parts of the world and to see things from other points of view, not just the view I am given. I realize that I lacked knowledge and had formed opinions when I really needed to look further into problems and see all sides. This is a welcome change that I will apply to future problems.”

Learning Modules “Through the reflections and thought processes I have analyzed my international experience more than I normally would have. I found that I gained a lot more knowledge and personal lessons than I realized. The experiences truly emphasized the benefits of an international experience that I thought of earlier.”

COURSE Provides a framework to support student-faculty partnerships to create pedagogically sound learning modules to teach other students.

METHODOLOGY Students (n=11) engage in online reflections.

Conclusions Asking students to reflect on and communicate how they perceive the impact of their international experience on their own development and behavior provides a foundation for development of productive undergraduate-faculty partnerships aimed at integrating international perspectives into the curriculum.

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