

# Impacts of Short-Term Study Abroad in Agriculture

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# Introduction

- Over the past 50 years studying abroad in college has become an increasingly important part of university experience.
- This may be due to:
  - The desire of businesses to hire employees that can leverage international experiences.
  - Globalization causing people to seek understanding of different cultures

# Variation in Study Abroad Programs

- Study Abroad Programs across the country vary greatly in **length, content, and style.**
- Most often chosen program model by students: **short-term, faculty led** programs.

## TOP FIVE MAJOR FIELDS OF STUDY OF U.S. STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS



STEM Fields  
**25%**



Business  
**21%**



Social Sciences  
**17%**



Foreign Language &  
International Studies  
**7%**



Fine &  
Applied Arts  
**7%**

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# Literature Review

Types of programs data is sourced from:

- Case study using cross-sectional data of five students from same university and semester (Harrell et al, 2017)
- Questionnaires of longitudinal students participating in a specific short-term study abroad course (Shiveley & Misco, 2015)
- Likert-scale responses to 28 survey questions. Respondents were part of longitudinal database of study abroad participants (Dwyer, 2004)
- Survey of student's perceptions across different study abroad programs by different faculty and universities (Hadis, 2005)

# Literature Review

## Impacts of Study Abroad Programs:

- Key talking point in interviews (Shiveley & Misco, 2015)
- Influences career choice (Dwyer, 2004)
- Increased interests in foreign cultures and languages (Hadis, 2005)
- Short-term habitual changes and long-term attitude changes toward lifestyle ((Harrell et al, 2017)



# Research Hypothesis

Short-term, faculty-led study abroad programs in agriculture impact participants by allowing them to experience and understand how to leverage international relationships and systems.

# Data

- 30 real-time student written journals
  - Taken from 5 agriculture study abroad programs in 5 different countries over a period of 5 years.
  - Same faculty led each program
  - Multiple entries by each student
- Students have freedom to write about what they found most interesting given parameters
  - Mandatory reflection on experiences while in country



# Data Collection

Country	Panama	Ireland	Hungary	Australia	Argentina
Male	1	2	4	5	2
Female	3	4	2	2	5
Total	4	6	6	7	7

# Data Analysis

Qualitative Data Analysis Program



Word Frequency Queries



Analyze Results



# Results

## Most Frequent Words

- People
- Products
- Really
- Cattle
- First

## Most Frequent Verbs

- Differs
- Think
- Experience
- Produce
- Interesting

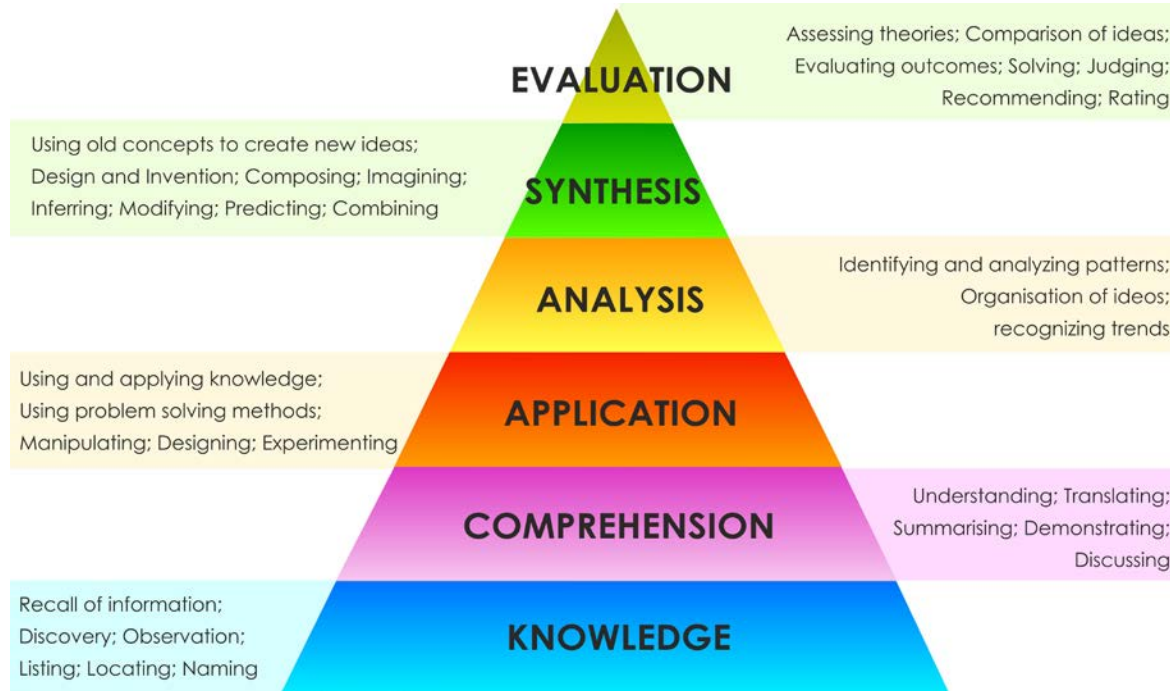




# Reject Original Hypothesis

“Short-term, faculty-led study abroad programs in agriculture impact participants by allowing them to experience and understand how to leverage international relationships and systems.”

# Implications



# Implications

- Journals identify the real-time process in which students think.
- Information and knowledge exchanged was focused on systems and processes as well as the technical field.
- This structure of program facilitation allows students to explain their thoughts and educators to evaluate what is effective