



Students' Selfperceived Teamwork Skills Growth From Study Abroad

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Teamwork Skills

- Research shows students participating in study abroad programs increase their teamwork skills.
- Teamwork is noted through:
 - Confidence
 - Common Goals
 - Active Participation
 - Comfortable Environment
 - Adaptability



Study Abroad Experience

- Texas A&M's Costa Rica Study Abroad Program focuses on diversity of people and culture as it relates to United States' and international agriculture.
- Students experienced unfamiliar environments where they collaborated to accomplish tasks.



Facilitated Teamwork

- Purposeful reflection sessions helped students achieve a greater understanding of how to apply their teamwork skills.
- The research was conducted to describe students' self-perceived teamwork skills from short-term study abroad experiences.



Methodology

- Case Study Approach
- Pre- and -post travel reflections on one's self-perceived teamwork skills
- Two Cohorts ($n=55$)
- Content Analysis
 - *Students' preand posttravel reflection logs to help understand self perceived teamwork skills.*

Reflection Process

- Identical sets of questions, pre- and post-travel, helped students reflect on their self-perceived abilities to work in team settings.
- Pre- and post-travel results were compared to determine if perceptions of teamwork changed after the study abroad experience.



Results

- Content analyses of **pre-travel** results showed students' teamwork beliefs were related to **confidence, collaboration,** and **adaptability** .
- Content analyses of **post-travel** results showed students' teamwork beliefs were related to **confidence, collaboration,** and **contribution** as most important to teamwork settings.
- **Adaptability** , which was more evident in pre-travel perceptions, was replaced by **contribution** as a critical teamwork component identified in post-travel perceptions.



Recommendations

- Implement the 'Teamwork Skills Survey' in all Texas A&M University Short Term (~2 weeks) Study Abroad Experiences.
- Educators should help students understand the importance of adaptation and contribution during study abroad programs.
- Communicate to other study abroad programs the impact that quality teamwork skills have on daily life.



