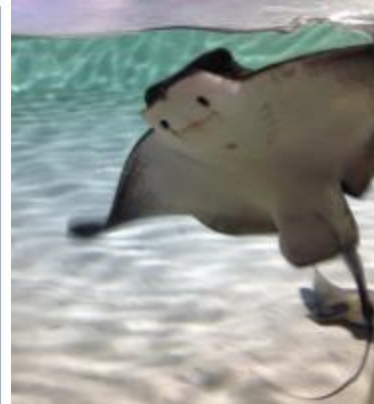
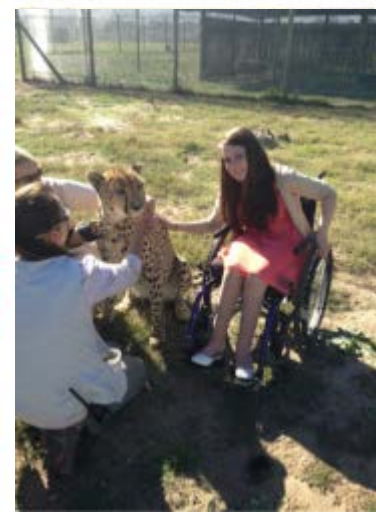
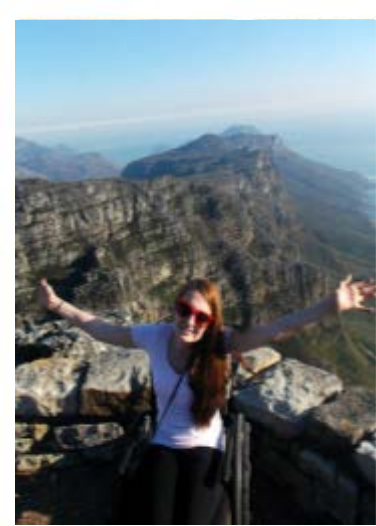




ENABLING ACCESS TO NONTRADITIONAL DESTINATIONS

Including Students with Disabilities on
Faculty-Led Study Abroad Programs





CONTRIBUTORS

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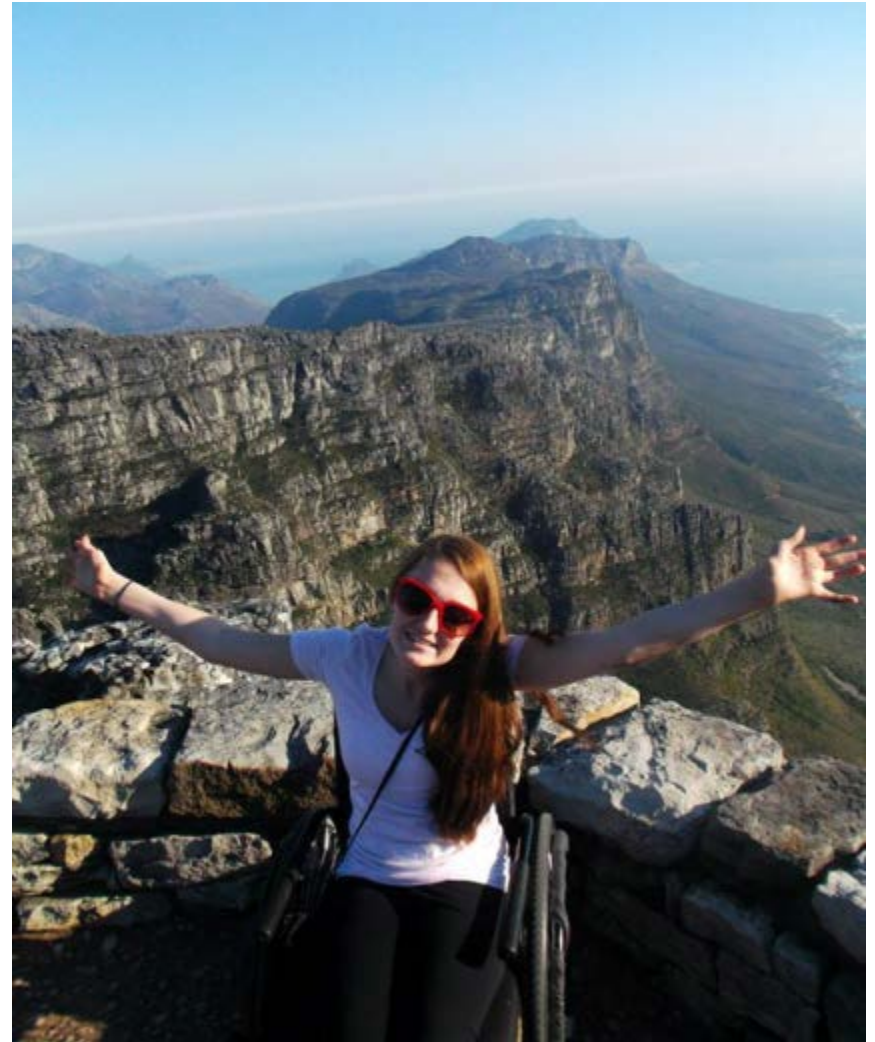


I ILLINOIS
College of Agricultural, Consumer
& Environmental Sciences

Why take students with disabilities abroad?

Inclusion
Independence
Maturity
Learning
Applied Skills
Personal Growth
Career Experience
Professional Growth

“Thembaletu is a school for children with disabilities. It was evident that the kids were living in poverty. They came from the townships and had old wheelchairs and needed new school uniforms. Education was not at the same level that we see here in the states. Despite having physical disabilities, the kids at this school had such a positive attitude and were so happy. They were grateful for the little things in life and didn't let their circumstances bring them down. This is how the majority of the people in Cape Town were, and it is an attitude that I hope to bring back to the states with me.”



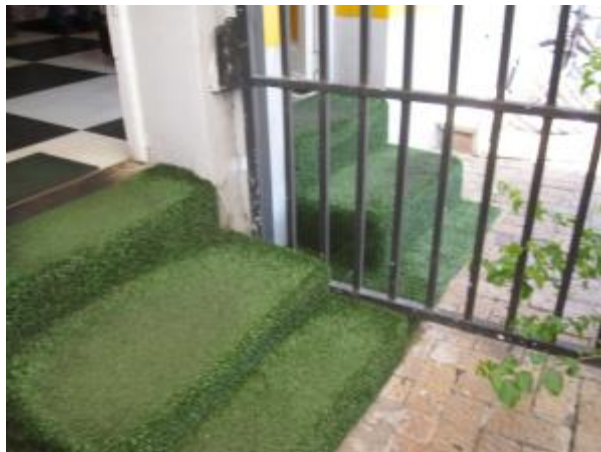
ACES in South Africa: Service Learning, Child, Family, Health, and Agriculture

Think realistically!

Pre-plan destinations and activities

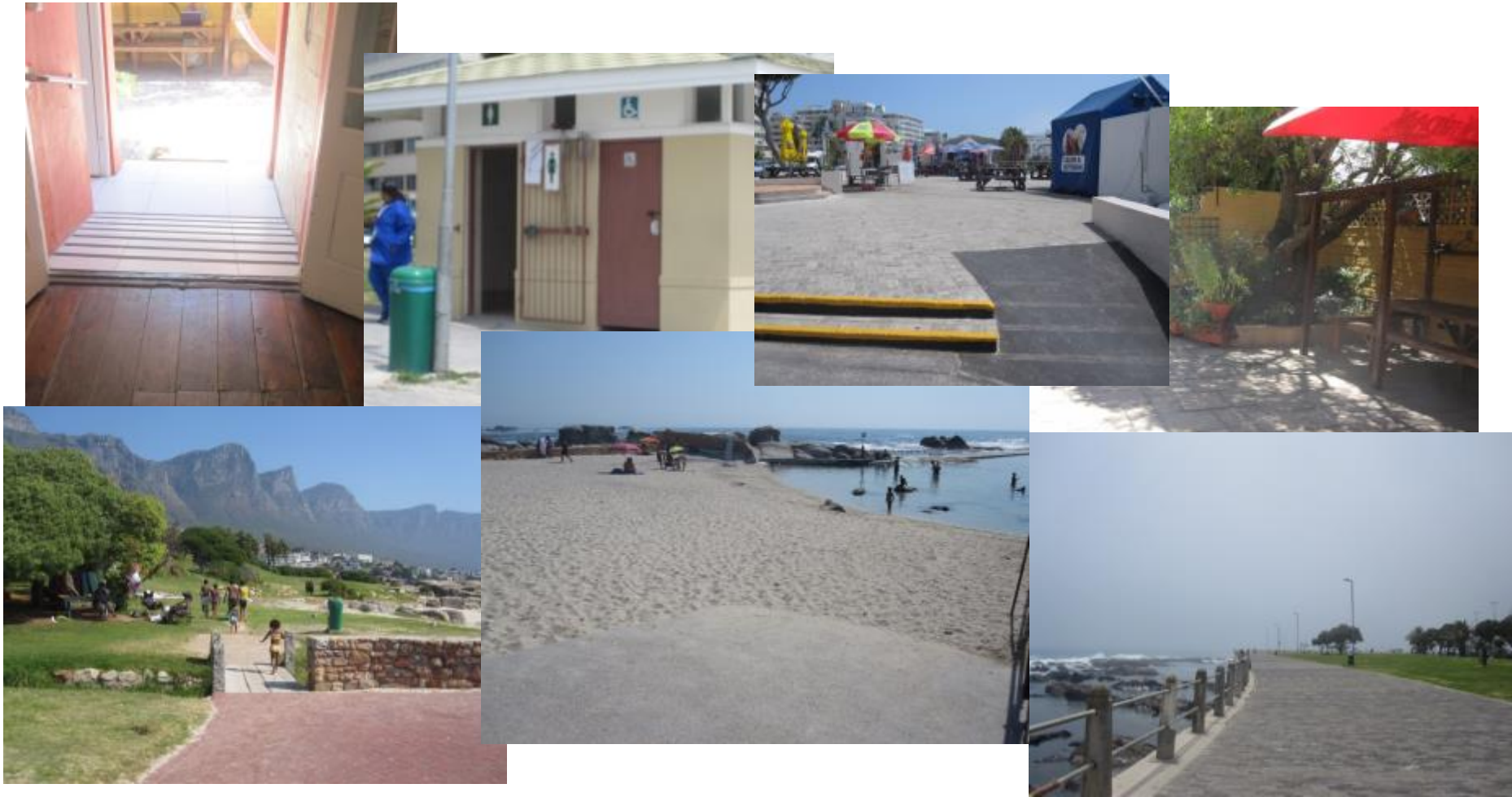
From flights to on-ground transport, tourism, housing, and fun...
Be sure your in-country supports commit to inclusion!

The Challenges....



Observations of entrances, curbs, volunteer sites, restaurants, housing were at first discouraging.

Accessible public areas did exist



The search for appropriate spaces....
Know where to go before your inclusive trip!

Call ahead or visit all venues when planning

Check ground surfaces, ask about ramps, restrooms, lifts. We changed safari companies in order to get safer seating arrangements.

We called ahead to Robben Island to reserve tour bus with working lift.



Wheelchair friendly vs wheelchair accessible...

Be aware of the difference!



You may decide to give up a little on full accessibility in order to gain greater community engagement.

Tourism is likely to be most accessible



Inclusive Service Learning

Thembaletu School for Children with Physical Disabilities, Baphumelele Orphanage, Sakhulwazi Community Garden, Noluthando School for the Deaf



Various disabilities we've worked with...

Students with...

Wheelchair

Muscular Dystrophy

Cerebral Palsy

Seizure disorder

Leg prosthesis

Deafness

Diabetes

Celiac disease (total gluten intolerance)

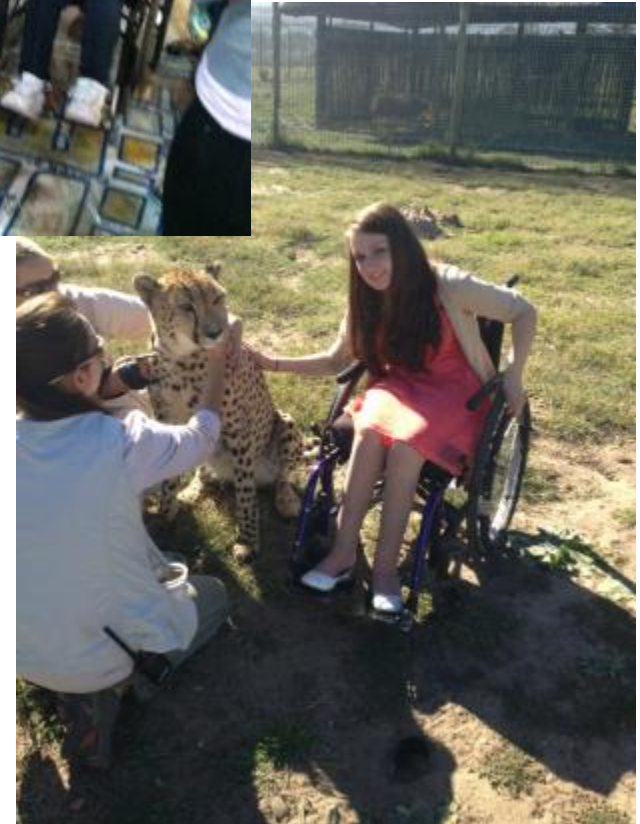
Lactose intolerance

Various food allergies

ADHD with medication

Depression with medication

Anxiety with and without medication



Our campus supports for inclusive planning

Study Abroad Office

- *Use existing expertise, experience, resources.

Disability Resources and Educational Services

- *Staff and students with travel experience.

Beckwith Residential Services at Illinois

- *Staff who support students with disabilities both day and night on campus.

Individual Students

- *Talk directly with students to determine individual needs.

Financial Resources

- *College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences, Arlys Conrad International Teaching Enhancement Grant

- *UIUC Enabled Abroad Scholarships

Online resources for planning inclusive experiences

Mobility International <http://www.miusa.org/>

Diversity Abroad <http://www.diversityabroad.com/disable-students-abroad>

NAFSA: Association of International Educators

http://www.nafsa.org/File/educationabroad_iessept_oct.pdf

Guidelines from Disability Resource & Educational Services, UIUC

<http://disability.illinois.edu/academic-support/accommodations/study-abroad>

Enabled Abroad at Illinois

<http://www.studyabroad.illinois.edu/userfiles/pages/enabledabroad.aspx>



Advice for success

Advice for Trip Directors

Create a campus support team

Communicate with the airline

Call ahead before tours – even if “accessible”

Know where to get repairs, equipment abroad

Move at a comfortable pace for everyone

Pay attention to ground surfaces

Make thoughtful choices about activities

Create a **Travel with Disability Pre-departure List**

Disability Pre-departure Checklist for Students with Personal Assistant

1. Student and PA(s) meet with Study Abroad Coordinator to discuss attitudinal, physical, programmatic, and informational access of your host country/institution.
2. Clarify job expectations with PA... Put work first and safety first!
Responsibilities shift and change compared to campus (no Hoyer lifts, no power doors)
3. ADA = Americans with Disabilities Act, not “International”
4. Openly discuss and agree on wages/salary and expenses prior to departure
5. Participate in predeparture courses and discuss culture shock
6. Flexibility, negotiation, and honesty are necessary for the experience to be successful
7. Incorporate daily and weekly down time for the PA(s)
8. Establish a back-up plan if PA becomes suddenly ill or injured
9. Have PA learn proper transfer and lifting techniques
10. Detailed discussion and clarity on expectations surrounding medications

Student's Responsibility While Abroad

1. Direct on how assistance is needed during travel
2. Understand that level of independence is going to be different, and more assistance will likely be required
3. If possible, have a designated contact at host location/institution for support
4. Learn how to manage own money with exchange rate, ATMs
5. Know where you are and must go – don't depend on others to keep you on schedule or make your decisions
6. Review expectations before and upon arrival
7. Work/study first, sightseeing next
8. Responsibilities (getting up, going to bed, meals, meds, travel)
9. Expectations in relation to autonomy and boundaries
10. Discuss downtime – this is downtime for the PA as well
11. Back-up plan in case of emergencies

Post-Trip Wrap-up



Report from both Participant and PA

What worked well?

Challenges and how these were or were not successfully addressed

Share information with campus study abroad office, disability resource office, and/or MIUSA

Address cultural re-entry, career applications, and “unpacking” feelings about the trip with all participants

Is there a follow up course or opportunity to stay in touch with fellow participants? If so, take advantage of this!

Please contact us for support and information...

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