

Enhancing Student Success in International Programs

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International Programs (IPs) as a Priority

- ▶ Increased priorities among higher education institutions to provide valuable academic and professional opportunities for students
- ▶ Study abroad, faculty research and teaching, curriculum development
 - ▶ UA incorporates internships and faculty-led programs
- ▶ UA established campus-wide goal of 25% IP participation by 2020
 - ▶ Only 3% of Bumpers College students participate in an IP prior to 2012
 - ▶ In 2014, Bumpers College students made up 8% of the UA student population
 - ▶ 900+ students studied abroad in 2014-15 academic year

International Programs Office (IPO)

- ▶ In August 2013, Bumpers College IPO was officially established
 - ▶ Previously one faculty director and no formal office
 - ▶ Mission: provide structured international experiences that enhance career and academic opportunities beyond graduation
 - ▶ Today, IPO has three staff
- ▶ Funded 9 programs and 28 students in 2015 (up from 6,18 in 2014)
- ▶ Funded 28 students in 2016 (out of 41 applications)
 - ▶ 2017 program proposals due July 1
- ▶ Funding for IPO comes only from the Dean's M&O; no university funding provided

Methods

- ▶ This survey consisted of 15 questions and assessed Bumpers College students to determine preferences for types of IPs and preferred communications
 - ▶ Knowledge of IPO, frequency of communication, media outlets utilized
- ▶ Surveys were administered to students ($N = 338$) in large enrollment courses in Spring 2015
- ▶ Questions were structured for multiple choice or written responses
- ▶ Responses included 20% freshmen, 33% sophomores, 28% juniors, 18% seniors, and <1% graduate students
- ▶ Anonymous nature of research prevented control for non-response error

Findings & Results

- ▶ 88% of students were interested in an IP; of those,
 - ▶ 67% preferred internships
 - ▶ 58% preferred study abroad
 - ▶ 22% preferred research
 - ▶ 22% preferred faculty-led
 - ▶ 21% preferred service-learning
 - ▶ 18% preferred exchange
- ▶ Only 40% of students had heard of the IPO
- ▶ Only 28% of students knew of IPO scholarship opportunities

Findings & Results

- ▶ Students reported preferred communication methods
 - ▶ 60% preferred email to all students
 - ▶ 48% preferred classroom announcements
 - ▶ 42% preferred website access
 - ▶ 33% preferred personalized emails from faculty/advisor
 - ▶ 29% preferred brochures
 - ▶ 23% preferred information sessions
 - ▶ 21% preferred UA Study Abroad Fair
- ▶ Students reported how often they preferred being notified of international opportunities
 - ▶ Monthly (49%), weekly (21%), once per semester (16%), bi-weekly (15%)

Findings & Results

- ▶ Students were most likely to seek information by contacting:
 - ▶ 68% academic advisor
 - ▶ 26% UA Study Abroad Office
 - ▶ 21% peers
 - ▶ 20% faculty
 - ▶ 10% IPO staff
- ▶ Students seek information through
 - ▶ 74% digital media
 - ▶ 55% face-to-face interaction

Conclusions and Implications

- ▶ This data showed a high interest in IPs among students, supporting increased interest in IPs in higher education
- ▶ The IPO adapted communications efforts to meet student preferences and increase awareness of IPs
 - ▶ Data suggests academic advisors should promote and be informed of IPs, as students' preferred contact reported in this study
 - ▶ IPO must work closely with faculty and academic advisors to promote and recruit
 - ▶ Data suggests increased email, classroom, and website communications efforts
 - ▶ Data suggests increased opportunities for internships
 - ▶ Study abroad, faculty-led, and service learning are often interchangeably-used terms; however, faculty-led are the most attended IPs in the College and UA

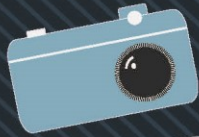
Implications

- ▶ Responses from this data influenced IPO communications efforts
- ▶ In the Fall 2015 semester, IPO staff visited 25 classrooms to recruit for IPs
 - ▶ Both large-enrollment courses and University Perspectives courses
 - ▶ Increased interest and follow-up communication from students
- ▶ Launched print and web materials to accompany increased efforts
- ▶ Attended UA Study Abroad Fair and College events, hosted IPO Info Fair
- ▶ Began meeting directly with academic advisors, creating promotional materials to include in freshman orientation packets
 - ▶ Presented at Incoming Freshman Preview Day to students and parents
- ▶ Created student mentor board for recruitment and scholarship purposes
- ▶ Began mailing postcards to prospective students to highlight IPs and students



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CAN I AFFORD TO GO?

WHY GO?

International experiences provide professional benefits beyond graduation.

MORE THAN 900
UA STUDENTS
STUDY ABROAD
ANNUALLY

88% INDICATED THE
EXPERIENCE WAS
EFFECTIVE OR VERY
EFFECTIVE IN BUILDING JOB SKILLS

96% REPORTED A
SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN
SELF-CONFIDENCE

90%
WERE ACCEPTED TO FIRST
OR SECOND CHOICE
GRADUATE SCHOOL

73% OF RESPONDENTS SAID THE EXPERIENCE CONTINUES TO INFLUENCE EVERY DAY DECISIONS OVER 15 YEARS LATER.

Yes!

SCHOLARSHIPS

are available for students through the International Programs Office (IPO), Office of Study Abroad, and other organizations to help ease the expenses of international experiences. Most programs accept your financial aid. The IPO and Office of Study Abroad can help you find the right fit for your budget and goals.

INTERNSHIPS

Complete an internship at an international institution for UA credit hours.

FACULTY-LED PROGRAMS

Travel with UA faculty and participate in discipline-specific projects for 2-3 weeks during the summer.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Research projects, tailored to your academic discipline, often serve as Honors and Master's thesis projects.

SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECTS

These interdisciplinary projects are a great way to gain hands-on international experience in your field of study.

EXTERNAL PROGRAMS

Earn transfer credits through programs hosted by third-party organizations in conjunction with universities around the world.

HOW CAN I GO?

WHO CAN GO?

YOU!

Our programs are open to all students and are specifically developed for Bumpers College students. The IPO is here to help you find the best program that suits your interests, academic and career goals, and graduation track. All Bumpers College programs offer UA course credit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE IPO
IPO@UARK.EDU (479) 575-6770



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2016 INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

FACULTY-LED & SERVICE-LEARNING

Community Development in Mozambique

Contact: Lanier Nalley, lnalley@uark.edu; Dustan Clark, fdclark@uark.edu

Community Development in Belize

Contact: Mechelle Bailey, mlb13@uark.edu

European Agriculture-Food Chain Sustainability

Contact: Thad Scott, jts004@uark.edu

Apparel Merchandising and Product Development China Study Tour

Contact: Kathy Smith, kasmith@uark.edu; Lona Robertson, ljrobert@uark.edu

Food, Agriculture and Sustainability in Greece

Contact: Andy Mauromoustakos, amauro@uark.edu; Maggie Jo Hansen, mjpruitt@uark.edu

Cultural Considerations in Design, Artistry and Layout of Hospitality Facilities in Italy

Contact: Godwin-Charles Ogbiede, gogbeide@uark.edu

Chinese Agriculture: Food Chain Policy and Sustainability

Contact: John Rupe, jrupe@uark.edu; Ka Zeng, kzeng@uark.edu

COURSES & EXCHANGES

Experiential Learning in Health and Culinary Sciences in France

Contact: Jean-Francois Meullenet, jfmeull@uark.edu

Horticulture Student Exchange Program: United Kingdom and Belgium

Contact: Michael Evans, mrevas@uark.edu; Wayne MacKay, mackay@uark.edu; Lona Robertson, ljrobert@uark.edu

INTERNSHIPS & RESEARCH

Experiential Learning and Agricultural Research Experience in India

Contact: Vibha Srivastava, vibhas@uark.edu; Mary Savin, msavin@uark.edu

International Research Experience Program: Brazil and Philippines

Contact: Nilda Burgos, nburgos@uark.edu; Richard Esten Mason, esten@uark.edu; Ruben Morawicki, rmorawic@uark.edu; Charles Rosenkrans, crosenkr@uark.edu

Expanding and Promoting the Bumpers College in Scotland Internship

Contact: Jefferson Miller, jdmiller@uark.edu

Poultry Science and Agricultural Communications Internships in Uganda

Contact: Jefferson Miller, jdmiller@uark.edu

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For more information about any program, contact the IPO at afls@uark.edu or 575-2025.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN HEALTH AND CULINARY SCIENCES IN FRANCE

PROGRAM DATES: MAY 18 - JUNE 26, 2016

This program, located in Beauvais, France, combines workshops, a language class, and an internship to offer a unique approach to culinary sciences. Students will combine culinary arts, food science, health sciences, and professional practice at the Institut Polytechnique LaSalle Beauvais. Students will take a one-week French language course and can choose to participate in an internship in a gourmet restaurant or in a small food processing facility after completing the workshops.



"If you're a student interested in going abroad, go! Go because it will be the experience of a lifetime. I was able to see, do and experience more as a student at an European university than I would have been able to on my own." - Christina Crowder, 2015 graduate in Food, Nutrition, and Hospitality and 2015 participant

PROGRAM DIRECTOR:
JEAN-FRANCOIS MEULLENET, JFMEULL@UARK.EDU

ESTIMATED COSTS:
\$2,200 + AIRFARE (EST. \$1,500) + UA TUITION

Prices and travel dates to be confirmed by February 2016.



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PURPOSE

This program offers an educational experience for food science students to access a European viewpoint on food, set in the comfort of a charming French town for the spring semester or summer, while keeping on track to graduate from the University of Arkansas. Students will better understand the complex relationships between food chain, dietary habits, and human health as a consumer and public health issue.

SAFETY

The International Programs Office (IPO) places student safety first. IPO staff know where students travel through careful planning before the students leave to go abroad. The University of Arkansas does not support programs in countries with travel warnings or watches. All locations must be guaranteed safe by the U.S. State Department.

OPPORTUNITY

Studying at this university will not only give you access to excellence in education; you will also have the opportunity to live in the country that invented "savoir-vivre", the art of living well! By participating in this program, students will gain essential skills to apply to the workplace, experience in culinary art, and a European perspective on culinary science, giving them a competitive advantage when applying for jobs.



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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT *in* MOZAMBIQUE



featuring

PAIGE ACKLIE
SENIOR, AGRIBUSINESS
& 2015 PARTICIPANT



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This faculty-led, interdisciplinary service project allows students from all disciplines to work together at a sustainable poultry business in Nampula, Mozambique. Students work in teams to complete a project, learn first-hand the challenges of establishing a sustainable business in a developing environment, and creatively apply their skills to improve the business.

ACADEMIC IMPACT?

I have a greater appreciation for my college degree since most students there will never complete elementary school. I know I will never take my education for granted and am forever motivated to learn.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT?

My experience was valuable because it led me to my career with a food company upon graduation, as well as made me stand out in interviews.

PERSONAL GROWTH?

Personally, I learned to never complain about the smallest things in life, because you never know how bad someone has it until you walk through a village in poverty.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS?

The most essential piece of information I would communicate to an interested student would be that the life experiences you gain from this trip will stay with you for a lifetime.

Post-implementation

- ▶ IPO saw shifts in awareness among and communication with students
 - ▶ Emphasis on different types of programs and students who have completed them
 - ▶ Increased communication between IPO staff and interested students and faculty
- ▶ IPO offered 2 new faculty-led programs in addition to continuing programs
- ▶ Upcoming fall 2016 survey to assess students' perceived benefits and barriers to participating in an IP
 - ▶ This will gather perceptions of benefits communicated through IPO messages
 - ▶ As well as show insight to barriers that hinder participation

Questions?

Thank you!