
Outcomes and Experiences of Students Participating in an International Horsemanship Program

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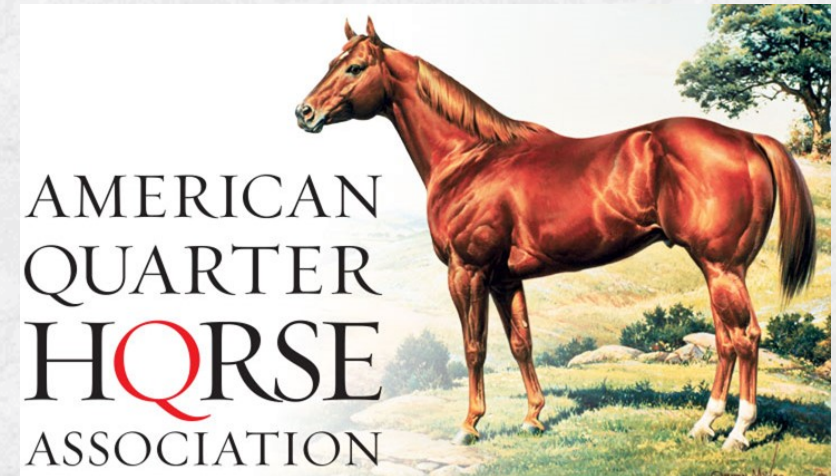
American Quarter Horse Association

Collaborative effort with institutions of higher education

- Strengthen horsemanship skills in AQHA international affiliate countries
- Advance all areas of American Quarter Horse performance and racing

Competitive grant process

- Coordinate camps and participants with affiliates
- Identify in-country hosts and interpreters
- Provide advertisement for camps



SHSU

Previously Implemented Programs

European Union (2013-2014)

- Austria
- Germany
- Italy
- Slovenia
- Switzerland

Oceania (2015)

- Australia
- New Zealand



University Responsibilities

Travel arrangements

- Foreign and domestic
- Establish camp dates

Housing facilities

- Coordinated with assistance from host
- During and between camps

Curriculum

- Plan of action and biographical sketches
- Horsemanship instructors (n = 4; variable)



Preparation



Student Instructors

- Initial contact with host information
- US-based carriers for flights
- Acquire US passports
- Application for tourist visa
- Travel with University
- Curriculum
- Plan with AQHA Intern

Student Instructors

Work collectively

- Develop horsemanship instructional skills
- Practice together
 - Feed back
- Communicate effectively
 - Establish team responsibilities

Culture and dynamics of host countries

- Unique traditions



Horsemanship Camps

Four day duration

- 12-14 hours/day
- Morning/evening riding sessions
- Presentations

Led by student instructors

- Topic orientation
- Divide large groups
- Implement drills for participants

Instructors work in pairs



Challenges

Translator

- Time – break from instruction
- Others methods of communication
- Previous horse experience of translator

Differing cultures

- Change rapidly
- Companion vs. Livestock
- Negative reinforcement

Intra-country travel

- Luggage and rail system
- Financial obligations

Limited Wi-Fi availability in remote areas

- Rural based locations
- International data plan?
- Cellular minutes

Student Outcomes

Twelve students were asked to describe the top five skills that they have gained while being an international student instructor.



Student Outcomes

Learning to teach more effectively.

Incorporating alternative methods in order to teach a lesson.

Working collectively as a team of student instructors from varying backgrounds or disciplines.

Develop patience while presenting information through the assistance of a translator.

Cultural immersion by integrating into a foreign community.

Summary

Unique and valuable experience

- Students are active participants in the experience and are vital to program success
- Communication and planning
- New challenges at differing locations

