

Worldwide Service Learning



OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS & FACULTY



Location and Distance



- How we define or categorize international or global service learning depends upon perspective:
 - Location
 - Engagementor,
 - **INDIRECT ACTION &**
 - **DIRECT ACTION AND ADVOCACY**

Service Learning at MTSU



- Service-learning is a student centered teaching method that involves academic instruction in partnership with MTSU and the larger community. The primary focus of service-learning is to enhance critical and reflective thinking and civic responsibility. Service-learning programs involve students in organized community partnerships that address local needs while developing their academic skills and sense of civic responsibility and community.

Study Abroad



DEFINITIONS AND TYPES OF PROGRAMS

SEMESTER

FULL-YEAR

FACULTY LED/SHORT TERM/SUMMER

THE MERITS OF EDUCATION ABROAD

Academic Achievement



- 87% Claimed that studying abroad influenced subsequent educational experiences
- 86% Said that it reinforced commitment to foreign language study
- 80% Reported an enhanced interest in academic study
- 52% Attained graduate degrees; of those, 15% received a Ph.D, Ed.D, JD, or medical degree

Cultural Development



- **98% Reported that the study abroad experience helped them to better understand their own cultural values and biases**
- **94% Stated that the experience continues to influence their interactions with people from different cultures**
- **90% Said that studying abroad influenced them to seek out a greater diversity of friends**

Career Impact



- **76% Reported that they acquired skill sets while studying abroad that influenced their career path**
- **62% Said that studying abroad ignited an interest in a career direction pursued after the experience**
- **48% Stated that they have worked internationally or participated in volunteer activities since studying abroad**

Personal Growth



- 97% Reported that studying abroad served as a catalyst for increased maturity
- 96% Indicated that it increased self confidence
- 95% Stated that it has had a lasting impact on their world view
- 89% Said studying abroad enabled them to better tolerate ambiguity*

* IES alumni survey <https://www.iesabroad.org/IES/Students/alumniSurveyResultsStudents.html>

MTSU Signature Programs



- Well-established

- Cuba
- Italy
- London-Paris
- France (2)
- Taiwan
- Costa Rica
- Russia

- New models

- Honduras
- Japan (Fukushima)
- COIL Program
(Collaborative Online
International Learning)

“Signature” Programs



- University supported (office of VPIA)
 - ✦ Cover faculty expenses associated with the trip
 - ✦ Provide student scholarships
 - ✦ Assist with marketing of programs
 - ✦ Provide pre-departure and post-program faculty and student orientations and debriefings

For new programs we provide pre-program travel to establish the program, establish the logistics of the program.



- Internships
- Service Learning based assignments/requirements
- Faculty-led designed courses that focus on service learning, faculty designed and controlled activities.

Syllabus example:



- **III. Service Learning (25 points)**

Five Service Learning Journal entries (20 points) Each entry must be 3-4 pages, double-spaced, and well-written.

Paper 1: Introduce the agency, its mission, clients and something of its "culture".

Paper 2: Interview a staff member or describe an incident illustrating "triangulation".

The other papers (3-5) should reflect on any issues of service learning, intercultural communication and conflict that you want to address. High grade will be attributed to a paper that includes a detailed description of the event and an interpretation of the event derived from reading, lecture, class discussion or in-class activities.

For those participating in the Alternative Spring Break to the US/Mexican Border with Global Exchange (March 20-24), you should complete Paper I before the trip, and then complete the others during and afterwards. One could focus on the projects visited and how they relate to class material. Completion of all paperwork between agency and faculty required by the Service Learning Institute. (5 points) There will be check-ins about your service learning assignment throughout the course. At one time during the course, you will offer a role play that reflects upon a problem of intercultural communication within your agency.

Service Learning Models



- Internships at NGOs, local agencies (EA should be able to arrange with enough advance notice and commitment on behalf of the student);
- Direct action of designed activities with local organizations, companies;
- Indirect study or research of ngos, organizations, companies of the structure, the mechanisms of successful or unsuccessful models of service learning.

Global Community



- Education Abroad is one of the best ways put a university's mission in action to “train young people and cultivate their gifts for the betterment of society and the world.”

Faculty and Staff Opportunities



- CIEE International Faculty Development Seminars
- <http://www.ciee.org/ifds/>



Easily said,...but



- For Worldwide Service Learning to be integrated there must be the institutional commitment, support and vision to make it happen.



Questions?



Thank you

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