



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION STUDY ABROAD

Non-Instructional Program Review

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NON INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM REVIEW INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION – STUDY ABROAD

I. Introduction

The purpose of Citrus College Study Abroad is to offer students the opportunity to pursue their educational objectives while living and studying in a foreign environment. Our study abroad programs help students gain an international perspective so they can become more effective citizens in an ever increasing global world. As students live in and learn to understand a different culture, they are challenged to re-examine themselves, their attitudes and their studies.

Citrus College Study Abroad supports the college mission in several ways:

- Courses offered through the study abroad program provide general, lower division course work leading to an associate degree in the arts or the sciences. Selected courses meet transfer requirements for any California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) campus, as well as many private institutions.
- Courses typically include political, social and behavioral science, history, literature, art, theater, music and foreign language. Courses are selected to enhance the study abroad experience and maximize the benefits of living and studying abroad. Students have access to the computer lab in London and Salamanca and are able to enroll in a number of online course offerings to supplement the on-site classes.
- The study abroad global educational experience expands opportunities to college learners pursuing post graduate schools or professions.
- An increasing number of employers are seeking individuals who are multilingual, have international experiences, intercultural sensitivities, and a degree of global competence. Citrus College Study Abroad offers language immersion and an enriching program of extracurricular activities designed to augment the cultural experience.
- Participating faculty benefit from teaching abroad. Study abroad offers tremendous opportunities for professional growth. Teaching in another country is not only personally enriching, but instruction at the home school is enhanced by international experiences as knowledge is broadened and deepened. Well-traveled, knowledgeable professors can encourage students to study abroad and become global citizens of an ever-changing world.

Program Description

Citrus College is the lead college of one of the largest study abroad consortiums in the state of California. The Southern California Foothills Consortium for Study Abroad (SCFC) has eleven participating colleges.

- Antelope Valley College
- Barstow Community College
- Citrus College
- Crafton Hills College
- MiraCosta College
- Mt. San Antonio College
- Mt. San Jacinto College
- Palomar College
- Rio Hondo College
- San Bernardino Valley College
- San Diego City College

Spring and fall semester programs are open to all students who have completed 12 units of transferable credit with a GPA of 2.5 or better. Winter and summer programs are open to high school graduates who are at least 18 years of age.

Students are able to live with a host or host family (homestay) in most locations. Homestay students have additional opportunities to be immersed in the language and culture of the country. Some locations also offer fully furnished apartment accommodations.

Our programs typically include airfare, accommodations, student services, medical and fee-refund insurance, field trips, excursions, and extensive social and cultural activities. Local transportation is provided when necessary and some programs include meal plans.

Students benefit from full-time professional student services staff. Student services staff members assist students with various needs abroad including health, safety and adjustment issues. In addition, they keep students informed of cultural and social events and help students make individual plans that complement academic interests.

Optional guided excursions to other countries are arranged to help students benefit from various cultural opportunities.

Experience and continuity are important aspects of successful study abroad programs. Students who attend our programs benefit from our years of experience.

- **Fall in London, England** - Fall 2009 will be Citrus College's 21st Semester in London, England. The London program is offered as a 10 or 13-week semester. Students enroll in 12 units of CSU/UC transferable classes. The London study center is located at the University of London Union (ULU). ULU

is a meeting place and facility for students from all University of London colleges.

- **Spring in Salamanca, Spain** - Spring 2010 will be Citrus College's 13th Semester in Salamanca, Spain. Salamanca is offered as a 13-week semester. Students enroll in 12-14 units of CSU/UC transferable classes. The Salamanca study center is located at the don Quijote Institute in the heart of Salamanca and within walking distance to student and faculty accommodations.
- **Summer in Europe** – Summer 2010 will be Citrus College's 9th summer in Europe. Our summer programs offer 3-6 units of CSU/UC transferable credit. Summer in Europe has previously been offered as a study tour visiting Salzburg and Vienna, Austria; Venice, Florence and Rome, Italy; and Athens, Greece. Summer 2010 will be our first on-site summer program in Florence, Italy.
- **Winter in Costa Rica** – Our winter study abroad program was added in January 2009, and we will be returning to Costa Rica winter 2010. The Costa Rican study center is located at Amistad Institute in Santa Barbara de Heredia, Costa Rica. Field trips and excursions offer students the opportunity to experience the natural history of the country from the Caribbean to the Pacific.
- **Additional Program Sites:** We offered study abroad programs in Guadalajara, Mexico in fall 1992, fall 1993 and summer 1994; Paris, France in summer 1995, spring 1996 and spring 1997; and summer in Beijing and Shanghai, China in summer 2007.

Program Organization

The Citrus College Study Abroad Program consists of the Study Abroad Coordinator, Lynn Jamison, who has over 18 years of experience coordinating study abroad programs. The program is overseen by the Dean of Behavioral and Social Sciences, Michael Hurtado, and receives clerical support from Citrus College student aides.

The program is supported by the Superintendent/President and the Vice-President of Instruction at Citrus College

Instructors for the spring and fall semester programs are selected each year by a quorum of Consortium Coordinators from the SCFC. Three instructors are generally selected for each fall and spring program.

Instructors for the winter and summer programs are selected by a committee established at Citrus College. One or two instructors are selected for the summer program and one for the winter program.

Study abroad faculty have the same minimum qualifications as all Citrus College instructors, but spring and fall semester instructors must be tenured prior to departure. Instructors entering the program receive an extensive faculty orientation to provide information on the country and city of study, school facilities and equipment, housing, transportation and cultural opportunities for faculty and students. Faculty handbooks are provided. Instructors are supported by faculty services staff on site, the Study Abroad Coordinator and Dean of Behavioral and Social Sciences at Citrus College. A lead instructor is selected to act as liaison.

The program coordinator attends conferences and workshops related to study abroad including safety and risk management for study abroad programs and NAFSA, an association of individuals worldwide advancing international education and exchange and global workforce development.

Over 2100 students have spent a semester studying and living abroad with Citrus College.

Program Review Progress

This is the first program review for the Study Abroad Program. However, the Study Abroad Program has grown significantly since its inception in 1990.

Two programs were offered each year until summer 1999, when we established a summer study abroad program independent of the Consortium. Our first independent winter study abroad program was added in 2009, so we now have fall, winter, spring and summer study abroad programs each year.

We have expanded our course offerings to include distance education courses in spring and fall programs as computer labs with free Internet and email are now available on site.

II. Integration and Coordination with Other Programs

Study abroad has very effective communication with other Citrus College departments. There is excellent coordination prior to departure, during the program and after the return to the U.S.

- Admissions and Records - Study abroad works closely with Admissions and Records to insure study abroad students are identified and students have completed the eligibility requirements for participation. Registration instructions specific to study abroad are sent to all students who are approved academically.

Participating students are entered into an Excel file and numbers per class lists are created for all study abroad courses.

Selected faculty meet with study abroad and records staff to assure all policies and procedures are understood and followed at the overseas campus. All

participating faculty return to Citrus College to turn in grade/roll sheets at the end of the semester.

- Counseling - The articulation officer reviews study abroad course offerings. Students meet with counselors to review selected courses and determine which courses meet their graduation and/or transfer requirements.
- Financial Aid – Financial aid processes students from all Consortium Colleges according to standard federal government requirements. Forms specific to study abroad packaging are distributed. Schedules and deadlines for payments to contractors are coordinated. FERPA forms are completed and necessary arrangements are made to insure checks can be cashed when students are abroad.
- Distance Education – Study abroad works with distance education to offer online classes most appropriate for study abroad locations. The study abroad coordinator works closely with distance education instructors to coordinate the proctoring and return of any required exams.
- Owl Bookstore – Textbooks for Citrus College study abroad courses are ordered based on the required textbooks for each course and each student's schedule. Books are packaged for students to purchase at study abroad orientation.

Study abroad does not have regular interaction with the Research Department or TECS.

Study abroad is open to all students who meet academic eligibility requirements. For all American students, attending a study abroad program is an unsurpassed opportunity for on-site learning, experiencing other cultures and personal growth. We encourage all students to take advantage of this enlightening, maturing, and life-changing experience.

The study abroad coordinator visits classrooms to advise and encourage students. These classroom visits regularly include career and life planning, college planning for today and tomorrow, and strategies for college success.

Study abroad provides confidence to students on financial aid who feel they could never afford this type of educational experience. We work with DSP&S to assist students who would like to participate but have special needs. Although it is difficult to offer some specialized services on a foreign campus, we can offer reduced course loads and work with our overseas providers to locate and provide specific support services abroad.

III. Program Self Evaluation

Our study abroad programs offer unique academic and life-changing experiences for our students. Study abroad students develop skills and attitudes that stay with them for their lifetime. Students who develop a global perspective gain a competitive edge in the world marketplace.

International education has expanded opportunities to students applying to post graduate schools and increased scholarship opportunities.

Employers are looking for graduates who can communicate effectively with others and know the importance of cross-cultural understanding. Students who have lived and studied in other countries have an appreciation for different points of view and understand the nuances of culture. It may not be just another item on the resume, it may be the highlight of the interview.

The location of our study sites offers tremendous opportunities for cultural exchanges abroad.

Students in England study at the University of London Union and receive membership to the university. University of London Union is headquarters to more than 45 university societies which our students are able to join. These include cultural, political, religious and performing societies along with numerous recreational sports clubs.

Students in Spain study in the heart of Salamanca, where Spanish is the primary language, so that everyday life supports the experience of the classroom. Salamanca, due to its rich historic, artistic and cultural heritage, is considered one of Spain's most important cities. The mark of civilizations, some of which pre-date the Romans, can be found throughout the city. The University of Salamanca, founded in 1218, is one of the oldest and most renowned in Europe. Salamanca was awarded *Heritage of Mankind* by UNESCO and in 2001 the city was declared *European Capital of Culture*.

Our spring and fall programs both offer a weekly life and culture course. Interdisciplinary lectures are planned to give students a broad background to the meaning of British or Spanish culture and civilization. Presentations by local guest lecturers take a social, historical and cultural approach to contemporary British or Spanish society and examine traditions and institutions to help students understand the British or Spanish way of life.

Related field trips in London go to places such as the Houses of Parliament, Museum of London, National and Tate Galleries, and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.

Spanish life and culture field trips visit museums, cathedrals, cinema, sporting events, music and dance performances and several historical and cultural sites including Avila, Segovia, El Escorial and the Valley of the Fallen.

Our summer programs in Austria, Italy, and Greece provide hands-on opportunities for students to study art history, music, and world civilization while experiencing some of the most beautiful and historical cities of Europe. Our students studied art history and music in Venice, Florence and Rome, Italy; art history and music appreciation in Salzburg and Vienna, Austria; art history and world civilization in Athens, Greece. Numerous outside excursions were included to enhance the program and course offerings.

Citrus College's summer in China program offered students the opportunity to study business in Beijing, China's capital; and Shanghai, one of the most important cultural, commercial, financial, industrial and communication centers of the world.

Winter in Costa Rica took students studying natural history to one of the most unique destinations in Central America. Students traveled to ecological and geological communities such as rainforests, cloud forests, tropical dry forests, and several national parks including Arenal Volcano National Park, Tortuguero National Park and Monteverde Cloud Forest.

Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment

Most study abroad students return with a different sense of values and a special appreciation of their own country and culture.

Many of our study abroad students returned to campus and joined student government, the honors society, PTK and AGS. Others have become involved in civic and community service and have assisted at risk children or participated in community clean up. One of our study abroad students was nominated Woman of the Year in 2005. Students who could not decide what they wanted to do in life found a new sense of purpose. Most became more concerned with international politics.

Student Learning Outcomes for our study abroad programs are:

- Increase students' understanding of global issues and cultural differences;
- Train students to communicate effectively in other cultures and enhance their understanding of other nations' values; and
- Inspire an appreciation for differences among other cultures and a deeper understanding of the values and perspectives of other people.

Each participating student will rate the various benefits of international education based on a matrix of 1-5. This data will be collected and graphed.

IV. Effective Practices

Our contractor, the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS), was founded in 1964 and has more than 40 years of experience in organizing study abroad programs. Over one million participants have studied abroad through AIFS programs.

Our student homestays and apartments are carefully selected and transportation to and from school is provided if necessary. AIFS provides well educated, experienced student services staff. Medical insurance is included for all participating students. Group airfare is provided with airport pickup and return.

Computer labs in London and Salamanca offer free Internet and email to our students. Technology is continually assessed and updated.

At least one Citrus College administrator completes a site visit each semester to insure that the program continues to meet our expectations. Site visits enable us to evaluate new apartment or homestay accommodations and locations, meet new staff and homestay hosts, and interview students and faculty on site.

The Study Abroad Program currently surveys every student upon return from their semester abroad to gather feedback regarding their experience. Students are asked questions relating to the program, i.e. "Do you feel study abroad is a great educational experience? Why?" 100% of the spring 2009 students responded positively.

Quotes included:

"Best experience of my life."

"My character has been enriched."

"I learned inside and outside the classroom."

"Every day is a new learning experience."

"It's a real life experience."

"There is nothing like experiencing countries and their traditions first hand."

"It is a great way to learn a new culture and language."

Program components such as life and culture lectures, related field trips, walking tours, excursions, accommodations, school facilities and quality of instruction are currently rated on a scale of 1-10. The results of the student surveys are available for review.

V. Opportunities for Improvement, Recommendations and Needs Identification

The input provided by the student surveys is used to improve program components and future offerings of the Study Abroad Program.

In future semesters the Study Abroad Program, in cooperation with the Office of Institutional Research, will enhance the existing feedback mechanism to include the philosophy and criteria related to international education. The value of the experience from the student's perspective will incorporate the following measures:

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- Inspire an appreciation for differences among other cultures and a deeper understanding of the values and perspectives of other people.

Students will rate the various benefits of international education based on a matrix of 1-5. We will collect and graph this data and use the results for program improvement.

As the condition of the California budget improves, we hope to add programs in other locations. In addition, we would like to be able to offer study abroad scholarships.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

