

Learning Outcomes

STMP Toolkit



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Research regarding the impact of education abroad on students has shown that they do undergo change as a result of their international experience. Much of this research has been undertaken in the context of the US higher education system, however some key findings show that:

- I. On-campus learning equips students with a greater theoretical understanding of the subject matter, whilst experiential learning in an international context equips students with better applied knowledge.
- II. Both short-term and long-term study abroad fosters interpersonal and intrapersonal development. Students report an increase in self-confidence, maturity and a changed worldview.
- III. Study abroad has an impact on cognitive learning; specifically integrative and reflective learning.
- IV. Intercultural learning does not just happen through cross-cultural contact, educators need to intervene in their experience and give students the tools to interpret and understand their surroundings and promote positive attitudes.

SUBJECT CATEGORIES

Whilst there will be some cross-over, overseas-taught subjects can generally be categorised into three groups:

1. Topical

Subjects that primarily focus on matters pertaining to a specific geographical location.

eg. HIST30070 Town and Country in China and the West; FRST90030 Forests in the Asia Pacific Region

2. Language Training and Cultural Learning

Subjects where the primary focus is:

- improved language acquisition, and
- increased cultural understanding of a particular society through an immersion program.

eg. ITAL20004 Contemporary Italy Study Abroad; FREN30018 In the Heart of the Loire Valley

3. Interdisciplinary Understanding

Subjects that explore global and interdisciplinary themes may be taught in an international setting to provide students with an opportunity to experience issues related to the subject matter in a real-life context.

eg. MGMT30017 Global Management Consulting; MULT20014/GEOG30023 Global Climate Change in Context

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning outcomes for University of Melbourne overseas subjects (UMOS) should consider both the University's overarching graduate attributes and those outcomes that are specific to an international study experience.

Alongside discipline specific learning outcomes, you may consider how your subject may affect students':

- I. Coping and adaptation
- II. Global awareness and cultural understanding
- III. Ability to communicate across cultures
- IV. Social and emotional growth

RESOURCES

Scholarly Articles

Bennett, M. (2012). Turning Cross-Cultural Contact into Intercultural Learning, *conference paper presented to the Universidad 2012 8th International Congress on Higher Education, The University for Sustainable Development February 15, 2012, Havana, Cuba*, retrieved from http://www.idrinstitute.org/allegati/IDRI_t_Pubblicazioni/50/FILE_Documento_Universidad_2012_paper.pdf.

Potts, D., & Berquist, B. (2014). Researching Outcomes of International Learning Mobility: Taking the Next Steps, *IEAA Research Digest 1*, retrieved from <http://www.ieaa.org.au/documents/item/256>.

Best Practice

The Centre for Capacity Building in Study Abroad. (2010). *Global Learning: Aligning Student Learning Outcomes with Study Abroad*. Washington, DC, USA, Author. Retrieved from https://www.nafsa.org/uploadedFiles/NAFSA_Home/Resource_Library_Assets/Networks/CCB/AligningLearningOutcomes.pdf.

The Forum on Education Abroad. (2009). *Standards of Good Practice for Short-Term Education Abroad Programs*. Pennsylvania, USA, Author. Retrieved from <http://www.forumea.org/documents/ForumEASStandardsShortTermProg.pdf>.

Spencer, S. & Tuma, K. (Eds.). (2002). *The Guide to Successful Short-Term Programs Abroad*. Washington, DC, USA: NAFSA: Association of International Educators. Retrieved from http://www.nafsa.org/uploadedFiles/guide_to_successful_short-term.pdf?n=3985.

Some examples of learning outcomes from other universities

Northeastern University – Outcomes Assessment
<http://www.northeastern.edu/studyabroad/about/outcomes-assessment/>

University of Virginia – Education Abroad Learning Outcomes and Assessment
<http://avillage.web.virginia.edu/iaas/assess/resources/worksessions/Educ%20Abroad%20Assessment%20Task%20Force-Summary.pdf>