

QUICK REFERENCE: THE 5 DESIGN PRINCIPLES

One of the primary goals of education abroad programs is improving students' intercultural competence. But many study abroad courses aren't designed to meet that goal. Luckily, there are simple solutions. Using the 5 design principles, faculty can create courses that help students learn and grow across cultures.

1

DON'T BE FOOLED: BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT COURSE DESIGN

Don't be fooled! Most students don't build intercultural competence simply by studying abroad. Students need courses that are intentionally designed to help them build intercultural competence.

2

BLURRED LINES: INCREASE INTERDISCIPLINARITY

Higher education is siloed by disciplines, but intercultural learning transcends a single field of study. Faculty need to integrate multiple disciplines into education abroad courses. This gives students a range of perspectives that help them understand and use cultural experiences effectively.

3

LESS IS MORE: CREATE SPACE FOR INTERCULTURAL LEARNING

Faculty often assume that there's plenty of time for intercultural learning during education abroad programs, but that's not the case. Academic requirements often compete with intercultural learning for valuable class time. To create space for intercultural learning, faculty need a scheduling and prioritization strategy that balances these competing demands.

4

SCAFFOLDING: BUILD AN INTERCULTURAL LEARNING FRAMEWORK

Many students aren't ready or willing to engage in intercultural learning. To help students prepare for, engage in, and apply intercultural learning effectively, faculty need a framework--or scaffold--that supports intercultural learning throughout the experience.

5

REINVENTION: IMPROVE THE COURSE DESIGN

Designing a course that supports intercultural learning is an iterative process. It requires expertise, and it takes time, effort, and experience to develop that skill set.

Improving course design to support intercultural learning is a long-term commitment that demands advanced levels of flexibility and responsiveness.

GET STARTED

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