Along the Continuum: Innovative Collaborations for Inclusive Study Abroad Programming

Presenters:
Monica Malhotra, Mobility International USA
Emily Shryock, University of Texas at Austin
Kelli Bradley, University of Texas at Austin
Irene Scott, Texas A&M University - Education Abroad
We ask you to join us in creating a culture that reflects…

Access and Inclusion

and

Civility and Respect

…this week and in all aspects of our organization.
Agenda

• Welcome and Goals
• Stats: Students with Disabilities in Study Abroad
• Cycle of Study Abroad and Potential Access Barriers Abroad
• Accommodations Abroad
• Strategies for Access and Inclusion
• Resources
• Questions
Open Doors Report 2018/2019: Students with Disabilities in Study Abroad

• No disability: 89.5%
• Disability: 10.5%

• Number of institutions reporting disability status: 317

• Total Students: 347,099

• 2008/2009: 3.6%
• 2018/2019: 10.5%
Open Doors Report: Students with Disabilities in Study Abroad

- Learning disability: 32.5%
- Mental disability: 35.5%
- Physical disability: 3.3%
- Sensory disability: 3.0%
- Autism spectrum disorder: 2.2%
- Chronic health disorder: 17.2%
- Other disability: 6.4%
The Study Abroad Cycle: Irene Scott

- Program research
- Identify and apply for funding opportunities
- Program application
- Post-acceptance follow-ups
- Pre-departure preparations

- Finalize coordination of arrangements/accommodations
- Day of departure
- Abroad
- Post-program evaluation
- Re-entry programming
Potential Access Barriers: Irene Scott

- Finances
- Relevance to degree plan/academics
- Career benefits
- Program structure
- Health and safety
- Knowledge of a foreign language/Program eligibility requirements
- Ability to be accommodated in host country
Accommodations Abroad: Emily and Kelli

**Academic Accommodations:**
- Classroom Accommodations
- Communication Access
- Texts in Alternate Format
- Technology Access

**Other Areas of Accommodation:**
- Housing
- Dining
- Transportation
- Field Trips/Cultural Experiences
Strategies for Access and Inclusion
Case Scenarios:

- Sending Interpreters Abroad
- Wheelchair Access and Attendant Care Abroad
- Access for Autism Abroad
- Supporting Blind/Visually Impaired Students Abroad
- Traveling with an emotional support animal
- Traveling with a service animal
Inclusive Pathways: Irene Scott

• Establish policies that build on the organization’s mission and core values
• Establish unit point(s) of contact
• Create internal resources for staff
• Collaborate on resources for students and study abroad staff
• Support target promotion efforts
• Cross-train across campus
Creative Collaborations: Emily and Kelli

• Study Abroad Panel Discussion featuring students with disabilities

• [Webpage helping students think through access abroad proactively](#)

• [Handout for Faculty leading Study Abroad trips](#)

• Trainings and Consultations with Texas Global Staff
Resources:

- Mobility International USA
- NAFSA Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Resources
- Forum on Education Abroad (Standards of Good Practices)
- University of Minnesota Access Abroad Overview
- University of Wisconsin-Madison Study Abroad - Sample Roles and Responsibilities
- Texas A&M Identity Abroad (resources for students with disabilities/dietary restrictions)

- Diversity Abroad Network
  - Professionals website: (Member access)
  - Students website:
- U.S. Department of State (traveling with a disability guidelines)
Questions
Session Evaluation

• Your feedback helps shape future programming.

• Thank you for attending!