GRADUATE LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND OUTCOMES:
THE LANDSCAPE OF GRADUATE STUDY ABROAD
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Progress Report
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PROJECT OVERVIEW

In February 2011 we submitted a proposal to the US Department of Education’s International Research and Studies (IRS) program for the Graduate Learning Experiences and Outcomes (GLEO) project, a three-year study of graduate study/education abroad. The focus of this proposal is the CICs and NYU. The Council of Graduate Deans for the CIC were contacted by Dean Karen Klomparens (MSU) prior to submitting the GLEO/IRS proposal in February 2011. In addition, the Senior International Officers and Study Abroad Directors for the CIC were approached and all strongly endorsed the project. Dean Klomparens (MSU) and Dean Riedinger (MSU) are the only deans who have been contacted about the scaled down version (phase 1) of the current proposal. Both have again expressed strong support.

Letters of support received for GLEO/IRS grant proposal (February 2011) include:
- The Forum on Education Abroad: Brian Whalen, President and CEO
- CIC: Barbara McFadden Allen, Director
- New York University (NYU): Ulrich Baer, Vice Provost for Globalization and Multicultural Affairs; and Bridget O’Connor, Professor, Higher Education and Business Education
- Michigan State University: Karen Klomparens, Dean, The Graduate School; Jeffrey Riedinger, Dean, International Studies and Programs; Brett Berquist, Executive Director, Office of Study Abroad; Carol Ames, Dean, College of Education, MSU; and Marilyn Amey, Chair, Department of Educational Administration, College of Education

The IRS grant competition was cancelled in June 2011. However, we are proceeding with phase 1 of the initial proposal which involves developing an inventory and typology of graduate study abroad at CIC member institutions and NYU. We continue to seek external funding opportunities for further phases of the original project.

A proposal for a scaled down version (phase 1) of the GLEO study was presented at the CIC Study Abroad Directors’ meeting on October 12, 2011 by Inge Steglitz (on behalf of Brett Berquist). The main goal of this project (phase 1) is to develop a comprehensive inventory and taxonomy of GSA programs at these institutions beginning with a systematic inventory of GSA opportunities (group/individual, credit/non-credit) in CIC member institutions.

We are in the process of finalizing an inventory that is intended to identify and characterize international experiences for graduate students offered in the CICs and NYU. We are obtaining feedback on this form and hope to finalize the form by early January.

Pilot Study of Graduate Learning Experiences and Outcomes

In the summer 2011 the Dean of the College of Education sponsored three short-term international study tour programs (Botswana, China and Vietnam) for doctoral students in their first three years and agreed to fund a study of these study tours. This study serves as a pilot study for the larger GLEO project and will describe the curricular and pedagogical characteristics of these programs, the types of experiences they offer students, outcomes associated with these various opportunities, and the extent these experiences contribute to personal and institutional goals of internationalization. The goal of this pilot study is to test and refine conceptual and methodological frameworks and instruments for the larger CIC study of GSA. Thirty-four graduate students (10 Botswana, 9 China, and 15 Vietnam) and three faculty participated in the study.

All students and faculty (37 total) were interviewed and audio recorded before and after the international experience using semi-structured interview protocols to gather data from program participants and program leaders. Similar protocols have been used in prior studies conducted with GSA programs to the U.K and were constructed using the
principles of phenomenology as a qualitative research approach and are designed to elicit information from the perspectives of students and faculty.

All students were asked to complete the Beliefs, Events, and Values Inventory (BEVI), an online 336 item psychometric assessment grounded in Equilintegration (EI) Theory (Shealy, 2004, p. 1075). In addition, a small number of students were randomly selected from each of the three international study tours to complete the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) online 50 item assessment before and after the international experience. Initial data analysis suggests that data statistically shows that the IDI can measure change in a short-term study abroad experience.

We have begin analyzing and developing an inventory of program characteristics for the three study tours using a grounded approach based on interview data and document analysis.

PROJECT TIMELINE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>October</th>
<th>November-December</th>
<th>January-February</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April-May</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify institutions interested in participating (MSU)</td>
<td>Finalize development of inventory (MSU)</td>
<td>Distribute inventory of GSAs at each institution (CIC)</td>
<td>Analyze inventories, and revise taxonomy (MSU)</td>
<td>Review and write-up findings to share with CIC/NYU (MSU)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Begin development of inventory (MSU)</td>
<td>Continue analysis of COE study tour data</td>
<td>Begin input of GSA data from CICs</td>
<td>Review findings with CIC/NYU colleagues at The Forum (MSU)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Begin analysis of COE study tour data</td>
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<td>Continue analysis of COE study tour data</td>
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FUNDING

External
- A number of foundations and federal grants have been identified and are being pursued as potential funding sources for GLEO.
- A proposal will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education, International Research and Studies Program 2012 competition when it is announced in late fall 2011.

Internal
- MSU’s College of Education Dean provided funding for the COE International Study Tour Study.
- MSU has committed to funding a ½ time graduate assistant for the project, project administration/coordination, facilities/space and supplies, and development of an online inventory and repository.
- Dirkx (lead PI) is the new Mildred B. Erickson Chair for the Department of Educational Administration, College of Education for the next three years, the focus of which will be graduate study abroad.

RELATED PRESENTATIONS
Dirkx, J., Sinclair, J., Janka Millar, K., & Akulli, A. (2011, November 4). *Fostering transformative dimensions of short-term study abroad for adult learners*. Presentation at the 60th annual meeting of the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education. Indianapolis, IN