



# **Enhancing Student Benefits : Beyond the Classroom**

**Presented by:**

**Dr. Vanita Misquita PhD.**

**Director of Overseas Program**

**Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, USA**

**<http://iitparis.free.fr>**

# **Problems encountered by students interested in Study Abroad opportunities**

- **Too many programs – difficult to choose, or too little of interest – insufficient knowledge of the programs**
- **Country may be attractive, but not the program or vice versa**
- **Guarantees that students require are not properly assured by staff at the home institution**
- **Offices responsible for promoting programs invariably use the usual methods of advertising which most students ignore, or they are informed too late**



# Problems encountered when students return

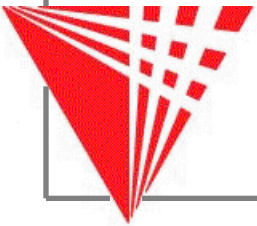
- **FEEL FORGOTTEN** about, after the initial flurry of transfer credit validation within the first 2 weeks
- **FEEL DISCOURAGED** -Students not encouraged to write articles in school's newspaper or talk publicly in class or to the community about their experiences & use what they have learned
- **FEEL DISPLACED & MORE ALONE** - Can no longer relate to their friends – have » grown » in maturity
- **FEEL USED/ABUSED** – when asked to help promote the program at the last minute – their input not reflected in brochures or ads or means of communication



# **Academic ( Pre-departure) – What should be done**

- **Country-specific pre-departure orientation  
(at least 1.5 – 2 hours in duration)  
(Education system, Grading system, Pedagogy,  
registration)**
  - **Cultural do's and don'ts**
  - **Brief cultural history (National past-  
times, preoccupations and passions**
- **Course pre-validation ( attention to levels –  
UG or Graduate, courses across departments)**

- **Contact person at the host institution**



# **Financial ( Pre-departure) – What should be done**

---

- **Exchange versus Study Abroad**
- **Amount of financial aid that can be applied for U.S. students studying abroad – savings in cost**
- **Clear outline of estimated expenses indicated by host country**



# Academic ( In-country)

## Upon arrival in the host country

---

- **Work Placements** in the host country  
(depends on duration of study abroad program)
- Participation in host school's **community projects**, where applicable
- Participation in **research** ( 3 credits) for experience in a research lab in the host school – highly recommended



# Socio-Cultural ( In-country)

- **Ambassador/Mentor** program provided by host school – student volunteers to host incoming students for a semester or summer
- Mandate that students participate and/or become **members of an organization** or two within the host school
- **Incentive for student volunteers** from the host school – research possibility for free at the partner school



# RE-ENTRY

## Enhance the experience upon return

---

- **Continuation of research** started in host country to enhance collaboration
- **Start a chapter of an organization**, may have been part of, and not at the home institution
- **Organize a re-union** of all alumni of the program to create a social network (twice a year)
- Have **recent alums develop marketing materials** & information and utilize means of communication that they think will attract students – **GET THEM INVOLVED IMMEDIATELY**