Summary of Student Evaluation of Fall 2009 Orientation

Number of Respondents: 13/15
• 1 student had to leave early
• 1 student did not attend

1. Was the orientation useful? Why or why not?
   Every student answered yes that the orientation was useful.
   • 11 students added that it helped them realize the importance of planning and research.
   • Students specifically commented on the session’s value in relation to:
     o “Packing tips, money and other helpful information”
     o Visas
     o Safety tips
   • 1 student added that it helped him/her understand “how to deal with different cultures.”
   • 1 student said they found the session “provocative.”

2. What did you like most about the orientation?
   • 4 students liked hearing from past participants and the anecdotes of CIE staff.
   • 4 students enjoyed the information on managing cross-cultural differences.
   • 3 students liked the preparing to go abroad section the best.
     o Packing
     o How to find cheap flights.
   • 2 students liked the journals.
   • 1 student liked the snacks.
   • 1 student said they liked the slideshow.
   • 1 student liked Stewie Griffin.
   • 1 student liked that the orientation was “interactive and fun” and another said he/she “loved the entire session.”

3. What did you like least about the orientation?
   • 5 students did not like the length.
     o 1 students added: “But what can you do?”
   • 1 student did not like the meeting day/time.

4. What additional activities or topics would you like to see covered during the orientation?
   • 1 student suggested more activities or an icebreaker exercise.
   • 1 student suggested we include more photos in the slideshow from countries to which students will be traveling.

5. Do you feel anything should be deleted from the program?
   • 11 students said No.
   • 1 student suggested we spend less time talking about health insurance information.
   • 1 student suggested we eliminate some slides from the slideshow to make it shorter.
6. Was this day and time convenient for you? If not, what day and time do you think would work best for future study abroad students.
   • 8 students said Yes.
   • 4 students said the time was convenient but they would have preferred a session on another day of the week.
   • 1 student said it would be better on a Sunday afternoon.

7. Any additional comments you may have regarding the orientation.
   • 5 students said thanks.
   • 2 students said the orientation was “really good.”
   • 1 student thanked us for the Moleskine.
   • 1 student said: “The staff has been more than helpful and available.”

   **Comparison with Spring 2009 Orientation**

   • Overall, evaluation of the Fall 2009 orientation session were very positive.
     o Interestingly, whereas in the past students commented that the orientation sessions were far too broad and lacked country-specific information, students did not make this critique about the Fall 2009 session.
     o No students complained of hunger.
   • Most students seemed to take away the need to do research and prepare.
   • According to Debbie, students stayed much longer after the orientation than did students of past sessions.
   • While I am not able to compare these students to those of previous semesters, this group of students strikes me as a particularly good group.

   **Suggestions for future orientations**

   • Wait until after the dinner to fill out the evaluation (invites comments on dinner conversation).
   • Increase the level or participation of returned study abroad students.
   • Students seemed to particularly enjoy personal anecdotes: include more.
   • Allow more time for activities.
   • Add more destination-specific photos to slideshow.
   • Order less food.
   • Additional topics to cover: H1N1, solo travel, credit transfer (pass/fail; calculation into GPA, etc.)
   • Devote more time to reverse culture shock?
   • Debbie’s suggestions.