CIE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Event: Pre-Departure Orientation Fall 2012  Date: November 10, 2012

SUMMARY OF EVENT:

Pre-departure orientation was held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 10. The purpose of the pre-departure orientation is to prepare students for their study abroad experience. This orientation is an important way for CIE staff to convey information that will be relevant to students’ time abroad. It also affords an opportunity for students to ask any pressing questions and meet with past participants and current international students.

The Fall 2012 pre-departure orientation was held for students studying abroad in Spring 2013 and Academic Year (Sp/Fa) 2013 on all programs, including Loyola exchange and study abroad, ISEP exchange and direct, and non-Loyola programs. 31/41 students attended the orientation. Six students that did not attend will be attending a make-up orientation session. 28/31 evaluations were received this session as compared to the 19/47 evaluations received in the Spring 2012 Session.

OBJECTIVES/GOALS:

- Clarify policies and procedures
- Make students aware of the preparation that they need to do both on logistics and practical information as well as learning about their host country.
- Provide students with practical and logistical information
  - Travel documents
  - Travel arrangements
  - Money matters
  - Computers and communications
  - Health and safety
  - Academics
  - Travel documents
  - Registration and transfer of credits
  - Academics abroad
  - Resources for preparing
- Help students develop realistic expectations
- Help ease pre-departure anxiety
- Provide intercultural training
- Provide opportunities for students to meet other future study abroad participants, past study abroad participants, and current international students
- Enhance relationships between students and CIE staff

EVALUATION METHODS:

All participants are asked to complete an evaluation at the end of the pre-departure orientation presentations by CIE. The evaluation questionnaire asks students to comment on the following: day and time of orientation, topics of orientation, helpfulness of orientation, highlights of orientation, and suggestions for improvement. CIE staff reviews the event and the student evaluations, conducts an overall assessment, and proposes changes for future orientations.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS:

28/31 evaluations received
- Evaluations indicate that students were very satisfied with the pre-departure orientation
- Students found the “Preparing to Go Abroad” session most helpful in preparing for the study abroad experience
  - 89% “strongly agree” or “agree” that this session helped prepare them for their experience.
- Students were generally satisfied with the content of the various sessions
  - The sessions on journaling, academic differences, gender and visas each had one student who was not satisfied. While the visa section was the most lowly rated, this section was actually eliminated and included in preparing to go abroad the orientation had to be reorganized on Friday afternoon and should not have had a separate question.
- Biggest takeaway was the importance of continuing to do research on their country and prepare logistically for study abroad
  - 20/28 respondents cited that they will do more research on their country to prepare as a result of the orientation.
- Greatest affective impact of pre-departure orientation was increasing students’ level of enthusiasm for the study abroad experience
  - 67% stated that they were more excited
  - 6 students commented that they feel like it is “more real”
- Only 2 students complained about the day, but 9 students stated that the hour was too early, especially for a Saturday
- The students rated the panel the highest in terms of satisfaction. Because it did not focus on specific countries, students were able to discuss cultural adjustment and other less tangible concepts discussed in other sessions.
- Only 3 students left early and gave prior notice of scheduling conflicts
- The location in Multimedia Room 1 in the library proved to be a more conducive environment. Students seemed more alert and attentive. Students sat with other students going to their location or region.

CHANGES FOR NEXT SEMESTER:
Based on student comments and assessment by CIE staff

- Conduct a 2-part orientation spaced out over 2 weeks.
  - Shorten the Saturday orientation from 9:45-2 pm, "preparing to go abroad" formal orientation. Mandatory for all students.
    - Include Visas and Academic Differences as well as a shortened Cultural Adjustments session.
    - Panel with returned students during lunch (pizza or Roly Poly)
    - Prepare emails or set up learning content on the following topics:
      o LGBT – update web information
      o Women abroad can be expanded (Can we embed Saturday night live video of 2 study abroad students in Spain and include in preparing.)
      o Sexual assault
    - Add an optional session on a Friday afternoon with faculty experts and students from the country. Friday evening (2 weeks after the Saturday session). Less formal and optional for country specific information.
      o Students can join faculty and international students to discuss more in depth issues over dinner (Lebanon’s)
      o 1/3 respondents stated that they would like more country or region specific information so although this would be optional, it’s believed that the majority of students would respond well to this opportunity.
  - Continue to use the multi-media rooms with lunch session in breakout or panel discussion. Saturday would be with returnees.
  - Modify all content in presentations to reduce redundancy.
  - Include gender, visas and legal issues in preparing to go abroad – expand to 2 hours and include a break.
  - We need to ensure that students understand what they have to do for both visas and residency permits. Add a question about visas in the application for exchanges and include a session on visas and other legal issues. As much as possible we need to make sure that students have specific information on their country’s requirements and know where to look for the information such as links and acceptance materials.
  - Revise evaluations
    - Add a question such as “Which session do you feel most prepared you to go abroad?” or “Which session did you find most valuable?” We ask what they would add or delete but not what they valued the most overall.
  - Adjustments to food order (see below).
Evaluation Responses

Likert scale evaluation of sessions
1- Strongly Disagree, 2- Disagree, 3 – Neutral, 4 – Agree, 5 Strongly Agree,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This session helped me prepare for my study abroad experience</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>N/A</th>
<th>Ave.</th>
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<td>Preparing to Go Abroad</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Cultural Adjustment and Resources for Preparing</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>Panel with Past Study Abroad Participants</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>Academic Differences Abroad</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visas and the Law <em>(Included in preparing to go abroad)</em></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3.75</td>
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<td>Let’s Talk about Sex…Gender and Sexuality Abroad</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3.92</td>
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<td>Journaling</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Returning Home, Closing Remarks, Final Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
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Please describe one thing you will do to prepare as a result of today’s orientation:

- look up visas and pack light
- I will do more research on my country
- I will definitely read up on current events, and look at US foreign policy
- I will journal more, and bring condoms
- Check VISA, buy an adapter + voltage converter, packing method, pack basic medical kit, register with US embassy, mark down registration dates for fall 2013
- Research political climate in France
- Further research about credits transferring
- Start journaling now, practical things like budget
- Learn more about culture, journal
- Go over the classes I plan to take and how they will transfer back
- After today’s orientation I have realized that I need to being researching more about the language and customs of my host country so that not only do I no offend the locals, but so that I myself will be able to come to terms with the unfamiliar ways of different peoples.
- Research! The orientation helped me to organize a general idea of what to expect and how I would figure out specifics of my trip
- I plan to start organizing my thoughts and making lists for what I need to bring abroad (and what to leave behind)
- I will continue doing research on my country by watching movies, reading articles, books & blogs & by connecting with people from the Senegalese community
- Well I will continue my research on India, especially their political system. I also realized I should become knowledgeable of our political system.
- RESEARCH x3! About my host culture, my own country’s politics, places I might want to travel while abroad, the weather, exchange rates
- I will conduct more research about my host country.
- Definitely do a lot more research into the political and social environment of my country. During this time I’ve also made a list of things I need to do, from talking to my bank to purchasing a guide book to logging onto the CDC website.
- Research! Cultural norms, price of living, budgeting, American politics, Greek politics.
- Check to make sure I have all the correct immunizations and a notarized passport copy.
- Read more about the specifics of Australia.
- Learn about the country’s laws and politics
- I will being doing more cultural research on the city I am studying in
- Look into traveling solo as a serious option while also consulting the women’s travel resources provided in the powerpoint.
- Do more research about my own country as well as the country I am studying in/ planning to visit while abroad.
- Do a lot more research and planning. This session made me realize how many factors I need to take into consideration before I embark on my journey.
- I will research the political system of host country as well as that of the US.
- Brush up on current events.

Has the orientation influenced your goals for studying abroad? If yes, in what way?

- Yes, it taught me to make goals
- Somewhat – I brought up many points about what I want to do and see, but my goals are the same.
- No
- My goals have remained the same but the orientation gave me the tools to accomplish them.
- This orientation has helped me realize how soon Paris is so now I’m more driven to take goals more seriously.
- Yes, to learn more about underlying culture, core values etc.
- Only in bringing them to mind.
- Yes, made me actually write them and formulate them.
- Somewhat – I hope to travel as much as I can, and get acclimated to the environment.
- My goals for studying abroad are mostly just to travel and learn about things of various countries, while also making international friends and furthering my education in a foreign country. This orientation has made me more excited about completing my goals.
o I have a much larger scope on what I will experience, and have greater expectations to plan for. Yes – it’s helped reinvigorate my enthusiasm to go.
o Well, my goal has been the same since the beginning, but it was great hearing other’s goals. It did inspire me a bit more.
o If anything, I know now I need to clarify and actualize my goals.
o My goals are largely the same, but it was a good reminder of my original intentions.
o My study abroad goals have been pretty determined and well laid out since I applied back in February. What this time has really encouraged me to do is write these goals down on paper and even to elaborate and expand on those goals.
o To really learn & embrace the language while abroad & use it as much as possible.
o Not really.
o Yes, it has influenced me to want to budget my money and plan ahead.
o Not really, I think it just emphasized them.
o Not really because I had already had a clear concept of what my goals were and difficulties to expect. It did make seeing more of south America a real option.
o Not that much – mostly reinforced goals I already had
O Yes, I now have more goals that concern the growth of myself. I wish to use my study abroad experience to figure out my larger goals.

Have your feelings about studying abroad been affected by pre – departure orientation? If yes, in what way?
o Yes, I am now more excited to go abroad and have a better understanding of what to anticipate.
o Yes, the upcoming experience seems more real to me.
o I am even more excited.
o More excited!!
o Yes, I’m feeling a strong mixture between fear and excitement, but before it was mostly fear.
o Yes it has made me more cognizant of the things I must do before I leave.
o It has made it very real, so I am very excited!
o The panel of students got me excited.
o Excited! Feels more real, actually happening soon.
o I am so excited! Orientation has renewed my excitement and eagerness to leave tenfold!
o I’m more excited now, and more aware of cultural differences.
o Yes, a decrease in anxiety.
o Yes, I was definitely affected learning about the home stay experiences which makes me extremely excited.
o Yes, I am so excited!
o Yes – but for the better. I feel more confident in my expectations.
o The orientation has helped me to rid some my nerves about traveling and provided good tips on handling myself as well as others.
o I have realized that I really need to begin looking at flights and begin to note what everyday things I will need.
o No, just made me more excited!
o Feel more ready but also excited.
o More real.
o Yes, more excited.
o I’m more excited and a little nervous about how soon it is.
o It all seems very daunting, but it now feels very real.
o Made me more excited.
o Yes, I have become even more excited. I feel like this trip is much more real now that the details are being brought up. I feel a little overwhelmed though by how much I need to accomplish.
o Not really, it’s just definitely going to be stressful figuring everything out.
o Yes – I’m more excited...

Is there anything that should be added to or deleted from the orientation? What?
o Maybe to focus more the countries that the students are actually going to
o I thought the orientation was very complete. I would maybe add a little more about travel through Europe however.
No, everything was perfect and on point. Maybe talk to individual students one on one about any issues remaining.
Could be more concise. I did like the cultural comparisons part.
Breakout sessions by region.
Possibly add a few slides on language barriers and various ways of overcoming them/ preparation slides.
Everything was perfect, I would not change anything!
It was very thorough.
Everything was very informative.
Longer “lunch” time to talk to the returnees/ foreign students!
Maybe more specifics about each country or the contact information of people who have gone to the host country before.
Overall I felt like a general overview as opposed to such detailed descriptions of everything would be better.
No, really it was all good information.
It was a little lengthy. Some things like sexuality and adjustments could have been emailed.
I feel like most of the information was valuable, I can’t think of anything that ought to be added.
O Added: maybe sessions divided by countries where we could ask the faculty specific questions (not just peers)
A little more country specific information would help.
O Instead of making it a super – session one time deal, make it several sessions of one hour each with
representatives from each country we’re going to. (There was no one from Ireland and the UK student had
never gone to Ireland either)

NB: any sheets with no answer or with an unaccompanied “no” were not explicitly included in this list.

Was this day and time convenient for you? If not, what day and time would be best for future orientations?

- Nooo. A little later please.
- Yes, just a little long because I was supposed to be at work at 3.
- Yes. It is most convenient especially as students have so many different schedules during the week. It was nice getting to end early.
- The time was alright. Saturday is actually fairly convenient because I didn’t have to worry about working around class time. That being said, it was a bit of an early start for a Saturday.
- Yes.
- It was fine
- Pretty early, other than that it wasn’t bad.
- Saturday is convenient. Any day is convenient if told enough in advance.
- It would have been nice a bit later and shorter overall.
- Yes.
- I’m sure it was convenient for most people, but I do my work study every Saturday 8:30 – 5:00, so I had to miss that for orientation, which isn’t a huge deal, but maybe Friday late afternoon would have been better.
- I didn’t enjoy having to get up early on a Saturday, but it probably was the best time/day.
- Perhaps 10am would be a little more forgiving for a college student on a Saturday.
- Yes, it was convenient.
- Sort of. Saturday morning was a little difficult, but it worked out.
- Yes – I was told enough in advance to plan accordingly.
- This was a good time because I have the rest of the weekend to think about what we talked about as well focus on coursework.
- Very convenient, I don’t like waking up early, but that’s just a personal preference.
- Yeah.
- Yes.
- Yes.
- No preference. Was good to know so far in advance.
- This day and time are convenient, but waking up for 9am is a bit much to ask for a Saturday.
- Sundays.
- It was a convenient time and date.
- Yes.

Any additional comments you have regarding the orientation?

- shorter, more country, Ireland didn’t have a country – gram, I’d like to have organized activities with people in my program.
- Good job guys!
- Great job!
- Was long but necessary; yay for the travel bug!
- Breakout sessions to go over regional details might be beneficial.
- Great job! I did not know what to expect but the orientation was well organized and I learned a lot!
- No! Thank you!
- Thanks for the food and journal; I will definitely use it!
- Delicious food choices – well done.
- I enjoyed it; knowledge is power. Thanks for the delicious lunch.
- The food was amazing! It was really great to sit down with someone that did my exact program and got to ask them all the little things that weren’t appropriate to ask during the regular orientation.
- Thanks for the journal!
- Very informative, but a lot of it was already provided on the website.
- The lunch with a person from similar region was really, really helpful.
- Great food! And thank you for the journal.
- I really liked the presents. Thank you. The information is very valuable, I also appreciate your willingness to work with us on an individual basis.

SCHEDULE

9:00-9:45  Breakfast, Welcome, and Student Introductions (MM 1)
  Debbie Danna, Director, Center for International Education
  Alisa Townes, Study Abroad Assistant
  Kristy Magner, Assistant Director for International Student and Scholar Services
  Susan Dempsey, Office Manager
  Olivia Burns, Wilda Valdez, Liz Volpi & Laura Gutierrez, Peer Advisors

9:45-11:00  Preparing to Go Abroad
  Alisa Townes and Peer Advisors

11:00-12:00  Cultural Adjustment and Resources for Preparing
  Debbie Danna and Kristy Magner
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00-1:00</td>
<td>Lunch with Past Study Abroad Participants and Current Exchange Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00-1:45</td>
<td>Panel with Previous Study Abroad Participants</td>
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<td>1:45-2:20</td>
<td>Academic Differences Abroad</td>
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<td>Let's Talk About Sex...Gender and Sexuality Abroad</td>
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<td>Kristy Magner</td>
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<td>2:20-2:30</td>
<td>Journaling</td>
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<td>2:30</td>
<td>Returning Home, Closing Remarks, Final Q&amp;A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Debbie Danna, Alisa Townes, and Peer Advisors</td>
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**FOOD NOTES (per Susan):**
- Pastries – 100 assorted mini pastries
- Assorted snacks and beverages

**BREAKFAST** (10 Lunch Guests, 39 Students going abroad, 4 Peer Advisors 4 Office Staff):
- Fruit
- Orange Juice
- Apple Cider

½ gallon of each is adequate.

**COFFEE SERVICE FROM SODEXHO**
- Coffee
- Milk & Sugar
- *Ordered coffee service through Sodexho due to location – coffee and tea for 50.*

**SNACKS DURING SESSIONS**
- 1 bags pretzels – *never opened them*
- 2 bags trail mix/snack mix – *never opened them*
- 3 bags grapes

**DRINKS DURING LUNCH**
- 5 bottles Coke
- 5 bottles Diet
- 3 bottles Sprite
- 4 gallons water
- *Less soda next year...the students don't drink it.*

**AFTER LUNCH SNACK**
- Cookies for 60
- *Many left over- buy less next year.*

**Lebanons**

**LUNCH (47 orientation attendees + 10 lunch guests)**
- 10 dozen falafel
- 15 orders lula kebab dinners with rice
- 15 orders chicken kebabs with salad
- 4 pints hummus with pita (unless orders come with hummus)

*Next year, order more hummus but less dinners; also, we had a lot of falafel left over.*