CIE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Event: Pre-Departure Orientation Spring 2013  Date: April 13, 2013

SUMMARY OF EVENT:
Pre-departure orientation was held from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 13. 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 pressing questions and meet with past participants and current international students.

The Spring 2013 pre-departure orientation was held for students studying abroad in Fall and Academic Year 2013-2014 on all programs, including Loyola exchange and study abroad, ISEP exchange and direct, and non-Loyola programs. 42/47 students attended the orientation. Five students (4 of which notified me of their absence) that did not attend attended a make-up orientation session. 35/42 evaluations were received this session as compared to the 28/31 evaluations received in the Fall 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 OF EVALUATION:
42/47 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
  ▪ 91% “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 session on journaling had the lowest average rating. Only 68% “strongly agree” or “agree” that this session helped them prepare.
• Additionally, the Lunch with Returned and Current Exchange Students was rated highly as 71% “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that this session helped prepare them for their abroad experience.
• When asked what they found most helpful in preparing to go abroad:
  ▪ 7/34 respondents cited that they will make more “concrete/specific/clear” goals as a result of the orientation.
  ▪ 6/34 cited that they will do more research to prepare for their time abroad.
• When asked whether their feelings or attitudes about study abroad have changed as a result of orientation:
  ▪ 16/33 stated that they were more excited
  ▪ 10/29 found the cultural information to be most useful in preparing to go abroad while 7/29 felt that talking to students was most valuable.
  ▪ 6/33 stated that their feelings had not changed although they did not say whether this was positive or negative.
  ▪ 2 students were “stoked” and “beyond excited”.
• 9 students stated that the hour was too early, especially for a Saturday.

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

- Pre-Departure Orientation should be moved back to a Friday evening from 4-8, which would conclude with dinner with returned and current exchange students. This was done in the past and has been shown that students will come on a Friday rather than on a Saturday. This would also be more convenient for staff and student workers as well as returnees and exchange students. Additionally, the cost of the event would be reduced because only 1 meal would be provided.
- Prepare emails or set up learning content and assessments in StudioAbroad on the following topics:
  - LGBT – update web information
  - Women abroad can be expanded
  - Sexual assault
  - Alcohol and drugs
  - Grades and credit transfer
  - Learning about your country
  - Include all areas covered in orientation in case they need these.
- The handbook needs to be revised. Either it will need to be expanded to provide more information or it will be reduced to provide a more comprehensive handbook on the website. This would allow students to read the handbook and directly click links to outside websites such as those dedicated to diversity or even just flight finders.
- Continue to use the multi-media rooms. 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.
- The redundancy of information was reduced from last year’s presentations. For next year, efforts should be made more concise.
- In the “Preparing to Go Abroad” session, slides should be added after every section for questions to ensure that students are not confused.
- Journaling should be after Cultural Adjustment session, not done last and should allow time for students to write in their journals or have some type of exercise such as goals. This was done because of scheduling concerns but in a Friday night session, the “Preparing...” would not be split into 2 separate times.
  - More time should be dedicated to reviewing the goals work sheet and giving students time to write in their journals. This should be at least 30 minutes rather than 15.
- A different, more engaging, ice breaker activity will also need to be done at the beginning instead of the map.
- Student worker involvement and input would also help to connect students with the info. Possibly assigning slides for Peer Advisor or bringing them to the forefront more. Also adding more student testimonials to the slides to reiterate certain points.
- Make sure to refer to handbook pages throughout the presentation.
- Adjustments to food order (see below).
- I think we need to include more of a closure to the event – this may not be a big deal when we end with dinner.
- While not strictly part of the pre-departure, CIE made a concerted effort to have students meet with incoming exchange students and returned students from their country, so there was less need to have a formal

Pre-Departure Orientation Evaluation: Fall and Year 2013

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparing to Go Abroad</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Adjustment and Resources for Preparing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch with Past Study Abroad Participants</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journaling</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returning Home, Closing Remarks, Final Q&amp;A</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- Yes, things that I didn't think about (such as bringing two suit cases to pack things you buy there) was helpful.
- No.
- Just made me more excited.
- Yes, it made me take China more seriously.
- Yes-made me realize I need to make my goals clear
- Yes, I have realized how much more I need to research prior to departing.
- Not particularly
- I’m excited and stressed
- Will make my goals much more specific
- Yes, this orientation has helped me see how many dimensions are involved in this experience as far as further preparation goes.
- Yes, Everyone else had the same questions.
- Makes me very excited to go abroad/ shows that I actually need to prepare more.
- Yes—cuz it's awesome.
Yes, I feel more prepared for my trip.
Yes, it has helped me think of more specific goals for my time.
Yes, it has helped me figure out the crazy amount of preparation I have to figure out.
The orientation has helped me become more aware of some challenges I may face while abroad. It also has helped me become more excited for next year.
Yes it has. I was extremely nervous and orientation has helped me get rid of worries and doubts.
Talking to past students.
Yes, it made me feel a lot more excited to study abroad, and less nervous. I feel more prepared mentally. I also feel more motivated.
I am so much more excited. Sometimes with the rigorous requirements it seems as though initially the bad (or roadblocks) outweigh the good. This was a stress reliever.
Yes, I realized I needed to make more specific goals.
Yes, it has helped me realize I need to set more goals and continue my research on my country.
The cultural discussion helped me think about such things in my host country more.
Overall, my mind is just blow/somewhat overwhelmed. I’m so excited, this orientation was very real and finally made everything feel concrete and real.
Somewhat. The information was very useful but the abstracts seemed to state the obvious, i.e. don’t get kidnapped.
I think my goals need to be more concrete! I previously had very vague goals such as “speak great Arabic”...
In a positive way. I now have a goal-oriented mindset.
Yes, it made me when we discussed our personal view of ourselves versus how others will see us (they see us as foreigners). Health section was helpful.
Yes. They’re the same, but I’m trying to make them more specific and realistic.
Yes, it has made me excited to go.
Yes, I know everything I need to do to be prepared.
Yes, it makes me think deeper of how I want to grow and positively change abroad.
Yes, I am even more excited than before if that’s even possible. The orientation also made me think more about setting specific goals for myself which I hadn’t really thought of before.

Have your feelings about studying abroad been affected by pre – departure orientation? If yes, in what way?
- Exciting.
- No.
- That cultures are really different, must be open-minded
- No.
- Not much, but excited to meet other students
- I am excited to continue and complete my pre-departure processes
- Not particularly
- so much to do
- Made it much more "real" that I’ll be living on my own in a foreign country for 6 months—much more aware of what to watch out for.
- Yes, this orientation has made me more nervous about it and more excited
- Yes. I am more informed about what to expect
- Stoked.
- Yes—I just want to go now.
- yes, I am more excited about taking my trips abroad.
- I am more excited! I also know more about the forms I need to fill out before leaving.
- It has made me more excited.
- No, I am still excited and ready to go!
- Yes. I had doubts and worries about logistics such as electronics, health and safety and orientation cleared everything up.
- More excited/comfortable.
- Yes, I feel more prepared and less anxious.
- Yes, it made me more aware of smaller things (such as humor differences) that I would have not necessarily paid attention to.
- Not that much, maybe a little less nervous.
- I am very excited to go abroad. The orientation helped me start focusing on going abroad.
- I feel more excited/prepared.
- More nervous, still excited.
- I’m more excited now. It was great getting to meet the other kids.
- Def more excited and feeling little more ready to handle the experience.
- Not in any negative way. I was excited to be somewhat unprepared and make mistakes abroad, but now I see the importance of preparation in certain aspects.
- Yes. I realized how much more I need to do and learn before I go. It’s intimidating but exciting. I love a good to-do list.
- Yes, it is becoming very real.
- No.
- Yes, I am more aware of the responsibilities I have before leaving. Also, I’m so excited and happy about the adventure to come! Most of all, I’m thankful for yall’s help!
- YES! I AM BEYOND EXCITED NOW.

Is there anything that should be added to or deleted from the orientation? What?
- Less repetition, I think you can get all info across including meal from 10-1. Be more concise, but it was awesome. Good stories :D thx so much!
- Cut down on the hour lunch
- journaling
Shorter!
- 
No, everything seemed relevant
- no
- more example stories
- No.
- Lunch was delicious!
- Not at all.
- No.
- No
- More information about cultural differences
- I thought the orientation went well. It was good being able to talk to an exchange student from the country I will be studying in.
- Clarify how grades get transferred.
- Too long.
- No.
- Maybe journaling first, or delete it all together. Maybe more specific things, but overall this was a great 5 hours of my life.
- Maybe more information or traveling while abroad.
- In the cultural aspect, the presentation that Mrs. Debbie gave was great. But I didn't get too much from the advice the woman gave afterwards.
- Incorporate other international students, not just study abroad students/returnees.
- Thought it was all pretty good.
- It was good, perhaps a little long.
- It was a lot of information. I am all for having to deal with diversity while in a difficult situation so maybe cutting down on the info and leaving the essentials.
- Journaling should be deleted.
- More intimate sessions would be helpful.
- No.
- Nope! Y’all covered it all!

What information did you find most valuable of helpful in preparing to go abroad?
- The cultures
- The academic information and visa information
- Speaking with the student that had already gone abroad.
- Mostly review, but the Loyola services provided was good to learn about
- Travel/visa information
- The flight info
- Insurance, medical, emergency, packing
- Cultural differences to look out for
- I found the information on how different the experience will be very helpful
- I really found the “one bag” tip to be important
- The health information because it isn’t something I typically think of.
- Talking with people who are going/ went abroad
- I found having lunch with a student who had been to the country the most helpful
- Information about cultural differences
- Logistics, health, visa
- Talking to past students.
- I felt that the information in culture change was important because now I know what to do and what not to do in certain social situations.
- Visa and state department registration info was helpful.
- The culture presentation by Mrs. Debbie. It was very, very, very interesting. I loved the studies mentioned and the linear charts about direct/indirectness, etc.
- Talking to returnees.
- The cultural overview was cool. The hard facts/info was good.
- Health and safety info.
- The stuff that applied to everyone.
- How to be open-minded and adapt to culture, also passport and visa.
- The cultural adjustment, logistics, and lunch with former students were the most helpful sessions.
- Safety tips.
- Visa information.
- Health, immersion to a new culture, packing.
- Everything, but really talking to people that had been in the area before really helped give me an idea of what to expect.

Was this day and time convenient for you? If not, what day and time would be best for future orientations?
- Yes.
- Yes.
- Yes
- Yes, except 9:30 is a little early
- Sunday
- Yeah
- Yes, for amount of material that has to be covered
- Yes.
- 11 am would be easier. We all were zombies at 9 am.
- Yes.
Yes.
Yes, this was a good time and day
Yes, it was convenient. I still had time to enjoy my Saturday.
Yes, this was fine.
Yes.
Yes
Yes
It was quite early for a Saturday.
Convenient day, but could be a little shorter. Maybe make lunch shorter.
This time was great.
Yes. Date/time was okay. Maybe start at 10 am next time?
No, shorter and later in the day would’ve been better.
Maybe start @ 11:30-12ish? 9:30 is painful.
Yes.
Friday afternoon would’ve been better.
Yes.
No, too early.
No.
Yes!
Not so early in the AM next time, please

Any additional comments you have regarding the orientation?

- Really long.
THANKS FOR THE JOURNAL!
Great orientation.
No.
More info about return to Loyola (classes, housing)
It was very helpful and answered many questions of mine. Even though most of the information was not country specific, I know where to get the information I’m looking for.
Maybe give more details about the documents that you need, not the visa.
Thanks
If you cannot find an individual from a student’s future host country, maybe give that person contact information from someone who is already in that country if possible.
Nope, food was good, presentations were informative and clever, notebook was a nice touch.
Great people working at the CIE offices!
A more filled packet would be helpful, one that actually gives information about passport and other things.
No.
Thank y’all for all y’alls help! Y’all are a great program who really cares about us having a smooth, safe and fun growing time! Thanks so much!
Y’all did a fantastic job!

9:30-10:00  Breakfast, Welcome, and Student Introductions (MM 1)
Debbie Danna, Director, Center for International Education
Alisa Townes, Study Abroad Advisor
Kristy Magner, Assistant Director for International Student and Scholar Services
Susan Dempsey, Office Manager
Olivia Burns & Liz Volpi, Peer Advisors

10:00-10:45  Preparing to Go Abroad (Pt.I)
Alisa Townes

10:45- 12:00  Cultural Adjustment and Resources for Preparing
Debbie Danna and Kristy Magner

12:00-1:00  Lunch & Panel with Past Study Abroad Participants and Current Exchange Students
1:00-1:45 Preparing to Go Abroad (Pt.II)
Alisa Townes, Kristy Magner, and Debbie Danna

1:45-2:00 Journaling
Debbie Danna

2:00 Returning Home, Closing Remarks, Final Q&A
Debbie Danna, Alisa Townes, and Peer Advisors

Cost of Fall 2013 Pre-departure Orientation
Event date April 13, 2013

(47 Students going abroad, 9 Lunch Guests, 2 Peer Advisors
3 Office Staff)

Pastries - 75 assorted mini pastries $ 91.75

BREAKFAST:
Grapes and cookies $ 25.00

COFFEE SERVICE FROM SODEXHO $ 154.07
Orange Juice
Coffee
tea
Milk & Sugar
Water for the whole day
1 attendant

Ordered coffee service through Sodexo due to location – coffee and tea for 50.

AFTER LUNCH SNACK
Cookies for 60
Many left over - buy less next year or possibly not at all

Lebanons $ 560.00

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

Next year, less lula, more chicken, maybe a little beef

Student helper cost $ 120.00
2 at $10 per hour

Journals N/A
No charge due to Mariette making a triple purchase a couple of years ago. May need to purchase next year?

TOTAL $950.82