Student Evaluation of Spring 2011 Orientation

Summary of Event: Pre-departure orientation for all outgoing study abroad students was held on Friday, April 29, 2011 from 3:45 – 8:45 p.m. Orientation is designed to tie up loose ends and provide students with what they need to know before they go. The following topics were covered: travel documents, travel arrangements, packing, computers, communication, budgeting and money matters, academics, health and safety, solo travel, green travel, getting the most out of your experience, ambassadorship, cultural adjustment, journaling, and returning home.

Number of Respondents: 26/46 attendees

1. Was the orientation useful? Why or why not?
   25/26 students said yes, the orientation was useful.
   • Many students said it helped to tie up loose ends and answer final questions.
   • Several students added that it helped them realize the importance of planning and research.
   • Three students said it eased worries.
   • Two students said it provided them with information they hadn’t thought about.
   • One student said it helped to make the coming semester more tangible.
One student said the orientation was useful in some ways but not in others:
• The student thought some of the practical information was helpful, but other points were “repeated too often or below our age level.”

2. What did you like most about the orientation?
   • Talking about cultural differences – 8
   • Session about logistics / practical info – 7
   • Food – 5
   • Interactive aspects of orientation – 1
   • The journals – 1
   • Ability to ask questions – 1
   • The guided visualization – 1
   • Meeting other students going abroad – 1
   • “All of it!” – 1

3. What did you like least about the orientation?
   • Length – 11
     o “Could be spread out over 2 or 3 meetings”
   • Date – 1
   • Activities in culture section – 4
   • Culture section – 2
   • Visualization – 1
   • “Nothing—it was all great!” – 1

4. What additional activities or topics would you like covered?
   • Nothing – 10
   • More culture-specific info (divide sessions by region/country) – 2
   • More time to talk with current international students – 2
   • Scholarships – 2
• Living with a host family – 1

5. Do you feel anything should be deleted from the program?
   • No - 11
   • Culture section could have been shorter – 5
   • “The beginning before we broke into groups” – 1
   • Visualization - 1

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.
   • 14 students said Yes
   • Earlier in the semester would be better – 3
   • Not during Jazz Fest would be better - 2
   • Saturday would be better – 1
   • Any day but Friday - 1
   • During the window would be better – 1

7. Any additional comments you may have regarding the orientation.
   • 5 students said “it was great” and “thanks.”
   • 1 student said she was glad she came to the orientation.
   • 1 student said he’s feeling much less overwhelmed.
   • 1 student said the orientation was “very well organized and fun.”

Comparison with Past Orientations
• Overall, evaluation of the orientation session were positive.
• 96 percent attendance
  o 3 students did not attend; 2 came to make-up orientation
• Most students stayed for dinner.
• Most students seemed to take away the need to do research and prepare.
• Group dynamics were great
• Orientation was the same length as last semester, but more students said it felt long
  o Did having Simeon last semester help break it up?
• Poor rate of return of evaluations. Require students to complete before dinner.
• I ran out of time in both “Preparing to Go Abroad” sessions.

Suggestions for future orientations

☐ Two different orientation dates or different session breakdown:
  o Two different orientation dates
    • One for Loyola programs, ISEP and Direct Enroll
    • One for non-Loyola
    • Try three sessions for each date?
      o One culture section
      o One general “Preparing to Go Abroad” planning session
      o Then split groups for region-specific info (over dinner?)
    • Separate luncheon meetings with relevant faculty/staff?
  o Days?
    • Saturday and Friday
- Bring in more guest speakers (international students, past study abroad students, other relevant members of the campus community): schedule for exact times and provide with talking points (structure interaction)
- Icebreaker for when the past participants and exchange students join
- Edit checklist in handbook: provide students with timeline
- Change the intro icebreaker?
  - Next time: Map, Name, City, one thing they know about their country
- Earlier in semester
- More group activities by country/region
- More snacks!
- Other suggestions?
  - 3 questions on cards for dinner → talking points
Notes on dinner order:
Ask for all in foil containers

Spring 2011 (estimate 60 guests)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ordered</th>
<th>Should have ordered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 pints hummus with pita</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 orders falafal</td>
<td>More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 orders lula kebab dinners with rice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 orders chicken kebab with salad</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fall 2010 (estimated 46 guests) – Almost all students stayed for dinner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ordered</th>
<th>Should have ordered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 pints hummus with pita</td>
<td>4 pints (or some baba ganoush)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 orders falafal</td>
<td>More!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 orders lula kebab dinners with rice</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 orders chicken kebab with salad</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spring 2010 (estimated 60 guests) – Several students skipped out before dinner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ordered</th>
<th>Should have ordered</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 pints hummus with pita</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 orders falafal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 orders lula kebab dinners with rice</td>
<td>Less!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 orders chicken kebab with salad</td>
<td>Less!</td>
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</tbody>
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Fall 2009 (estimated 35 guests)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ordered</th>
<th>Should have ordered</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 pints hummus with pita</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 orders falafal</td>
<td>More!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 orders lula kebab dinners with rice</td>
<td>Less!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 orders chicken kebab with salad</td>
<td>Less!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 orders beef shawarma with salad</td>
<td>Less!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Snacks and Drinks - Spring 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purchased</th>
<th>Should have purchased</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 bags baby carrots</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 bags grapes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 bags trail mix</td>
<td>More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 bag Chex Mix</td>
<td>More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 bag pretzels</td>
<td>More</td>
</tr>
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8 bottles Coke
8 bottles Diet
2 bottles Sprite
4 gallons water