



International Incidents

Lessons Learned From a Decade of Study Abroad

Programming



Agenda

Flight Path:

- Explore best practices in planning an agenda
- Discuss pitfalls for accommodations
- Design proper learning goals for your course

Lesson 1: If You Fail to Plan, Plan to Fail

- New Orleans, LA/ Cambridge, MD/Philadelphia, PA
- Combined Ed. History and MCC Course
- Mistake: OVER PACKED AGENDA!!!





Remedy:

- Focus on your learning goals
- Narrow those learning goals to digestible entities
- Assess the “highlights” of your course, this is likely all you’ll have time for
- Activity: Think of the class you may want to teach, look at your syllabus. Outside of CACREP, what are your most important learning goals?

Lesson 2: The Plan is YOUR Plan

- Amsterdam, NL
- Group Counseling
- Mistake: Allowed planning company to design the course schedule





Remedy:

- Planning companies CAN be useful but they should not take control
- Assess your contacts and how they may relate to a possible course
- Activity: Make a quick list of your contacts in other countries. If you don't have any, who may you reach out to?

Lesson 3: Your Bed is Your Solace

- Nassau, Bahamas
- Group Counseling Course
- Mistake: Poor choice of accommodations





Remedy:

- DON'T STAY AT A RESORT
- Cheap hotels actually cost more
- Centralize your hotel to your daily activities
- Activity: In your budget, what would be a good nightly rate? How much will a day's worth of experience cost each student (meals, transportation, excursions)?

Lesson 4: Stay Flexible

- Falmouth, Jamaica
- MCC Course
- Mistake: Island Time vs American Time





Remedy:

- Build in “Rest” time
- Keep your students informed of ALL changes
- Prompt students to engage in self-care throughout the day
- Activity: Think of your ideal travel day, what would it look like? What educational/cultural experiences would be most important? Structure the ENTIRE day!

Lesson 5: It All Comes Down To YOU

- Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Multicultural Counseling
- Mistake: Too far outside of comfort zone





Remedy:

- Emergencies WILL happen (big or small)
- Stay versed in your school's emergency protocols (sickness, SA, robberies, etc.)
- Have an account of relevant hospitals, police stations, etc.
- Activity: Does your school have an international/study abroad office? What are their policies for emergencies? Can you take a co-teacher?

Lesson 6: Money Matters

- Paris, France
- Couples & Sexuality
- Mistake: Did not carry enough cash (or any, tee hee)





Remedy:

- Add honorariums to your budget
- Complete your petty cash and per diem requests at least 2 months prior to leaving
- Beware of foreign transaction fees
- Activity: What is the typical honorarium for guest speakers in the country you're visiting? As an institution with more funds, how can you leverage that power dynamic to help communities?