Abstract

The Global Citizens Project intends to promote student success in today's interconnected world. This initiative takes on the task to ensure that students pursuing the Global Citizen's Award are flexible, knowledgeable and collaborative when working with diverse groups of people, and across different situations. The purpose of this research was to focus on the post-study abroad reflections. The guiding question for this research was how do students at the University of South Florida describe their study abroad experience?

Methods and Materials

• Discourse analysis for 128 student responses to questions 12 and 13 for the post-study abroad reflections, separately.
• Responses to both questions were coded from the same coding theme.
• Responses to both questions were assessed for transformational language:
  - Change in perspectives, behaviors, interactive styles, bias
  - Responses were reviewed to gauge if the students were critical in their responses.

Results

• Of 128 responses, 63% were either vague or colloquial.
• 41% of reflections showed critical comparisons, directly stating the L.O and the UN SDG's present in their experience.
• 34% did not describe their experience as meaningful
• Self-awareness was chosen as the learning outcome with the greatest enhancement, however it was the least described outcome in all reflections.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>L.O.'s</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Analysis</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self-Awareness</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willingness</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthesis</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3. Percentage of Learning Outcomes Chosen

Discussion

• The study abroad post-reflection is intended to measure the degree to which students seeking the Global Citizen Award understand the student learning outcomes, and the way that understanding is reflected in the context of their experience.
• A large percentage of respondents were vague in their discussion of the experience.
• Many students identified a learning outcome but did not address that specific learning outcome in their response.
• Many student responses discussed other learning outcomes not identified in the prompted response.

Conclusions

• Thorough analysis of these reflections suggested that 80% of student submissions represent a cursory examination of the cultural environment, without much critical comparison.
• When selecting the UN SDG's, students did not identify these SDG's in their reflections.
• Due to students identifying other learning outcomes within their description of the abroad experience, it is determined that the GCP is making some impact through their efforts to facilitate student representation of global citizenship.

Future Directions

• The data gathered indicate that further briefing may better prepare USF students to be more critical in their experiences abroad.
• Reflection questions can be restructured in a way that allows students studying abroad to provide more in depth responses.

References


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