Quality Enhancement Plan

Summary of Student Focus Groups

5 – 11 November 2008
Participant Demographics
29 Undergraduates

Recruitment Method
- Showed Up 11%
- Chronicl 30%
- QEP Request 59%

Year in School
- First 26%
- Second 37%
- Third 4%
- Fourth 22%
- Unknown 11%

Students who “showed up” did not contact me prior to attending the session.
Participant Demographics
29 Undergraduates

Gender
- Male: 37%
- Female: 63%

Ethnicity
- Asian: 33%
- White: 30%
- Hispanic: 22%
- Black: 8%
- Unknown: 7%
Participant Demographics
29 Undergraduates

College
- Unknown: 15%
- Pratt: 18%
- Trinity: 67%

Study Abroad Status
- Not Planning: 11%
- Have: 15%
- Considering: 74%
Focus Group Format

Six Focus Groups with 29 Participants

Students read a one-page information sheet, and then were asked their opinions of the three proposals.

Each session ran for one hour, with approximately 15 minutes dedicated to each proposal area.
How to read the graphics

Each text box represents a comment/theme from the focus group, color indicates the positive or negative attitude associated with the comment/theme.
Global Semester Abroad
Jess’ Analysis

This was the most popular of all three proposals. Students recognized that it was different from traditional study abroad, but the comparative component was compelling. Many said they would consider participation.

Key themes that emerged:

• The program needs to fulfill Duke requirements. Many students feel restricted in what they can do.

• The only way it will work is if the students are able to fully engage in foreign culture. It will be hard, but that is where this program is weak (due to short amount of time and being with other Americans).
Global Semester Abroad
Overall Comments

Most appealing of three
Curious about pairings
Different than traditional study abroad
Concerns about time - not long enough
Concerns about integration into culture
Too much going on in a small time frame

Like the two locations
Like comparative component
Like mandatory service learning
Unique Experience – hadn’t heard of this before

Green indicates a positive response, red indicates a non-positive response.
Global Semester Abroad
Comments about participation

- Feels all years will be interested
- Would have to be flexible
- Travelling to multiple places is most appealing
- Depends on requirements (at Duke)
- Having no language rqmts lessens the experience
- Good growing experience to get away from Duke
- Prefers the traditional SA format

GSA

Green indicates a positive response, red indicates a non-positive response.
# Global Semester Abroad

## Suggested Themes/Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Countries</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Racial Issues/Conflict</td>
<td>Paris/Berlin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Policy/Gov’t</td>
<td>South America – Argentina/Colombia</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Africa – South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>France/Italy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>India/China/Argentina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>Germany/China</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Health/Health Disparities/Epidemics</td>
<td>Africa/Argentina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (of women)</td>
<td>India/China</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Global Semester Abroad
Tips to involve the community

- Pair with local NGO leaders
- Bring in local university for service learning component
- Is communal living possible – even sharing common area
- Put local students in the course
- Language barrier concerns

Green indicates a positive response, red indicates a non-positive response.
Global Semester Abroad
What to do with the Free Week

Overall consensus was to allow flexibility. Provide optional structure, student learning, but allow student to choose specifics. Perhaps provide three to four options to choose among.
Global Semester Abroad
How to Market

- Focus on country pairs
- Distinguish from traditional SA
- Satisfy Requirements
- Market through major
- Don’t think enthusiasm will be a problem
- Mix of SA and DukeEngage
Winter Forum
Jess’ Analysis

This is the proposal that the students had the most constructive feedback about. They thought it was a good idea, but needed more details. They also suggested changes to the format.

Key themes that emerged:
• In theory this can be good, but concerned about application
• Needs to be unbelievably engaging
Winter Forum
Overall Impressions

- Needs to include activities, not just lectures
- 400 participants is too large – not enough contact
- Could be easily written off
- Good opportunity if you can engage students
- High Opportunity Cost to Students
- Think 2.5 Days is not long enough
- Good idea, people are ready to come back and be engaged

Green indicates a positive response, red indicates a non-positive response.
Winter Forum
Comments about Participation

- Interested in faculty contact, not grad student contact
- Topic is most important selling point
- Would have to decrease size and move it off campus
- Tagline on transcript may woo some
- May be good to target athletes – they come back early
- Timing conflict with tenting and rush
- Wouldn’t want to come back

Green indicates a positive response, red indicates a non-positive response.
Winter Forum
Suggested Topics

- Global Health
- Ethics
- Economics
- Future Oriented
- Green Economy (mixed reviews)
- Social Marginalization
- Immigration
- Nuclear Proliferation
Winter Forum
Comments about Topics

- Details make any topic worth it
- Speaker more important than topic
- Rotate same topic through multiple departments
- Has to be applied, anyone get a hold of facts
- Get students to think linearly and creatively at same time
Winter Forum
Comments about Timing

Maybe a weekend during the semester, but off-campus
People wouldn’t be productive during that time anyway
Want some time between the forum and classes, even one day
No other options – all are less than ideal

WF

Green indicates a positive response, red indicates a non-positive response.
Winter Forum
Additional Comments

- Get buy in from faculty, have them market it
- Offer credit or certificate
- Pair the forum with the Global Semester Abroad
- Better if it is offsite, feels like retreat
- Not specific enough, what will the gains be?
- Has potential, but could easily fail
- Not happy with current time/size/location

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Winter Forum
Student Suggestions

- Either make it smaller, or make it longer
- Perhaps hold it over a weekend during the semester
- Have Duke host an event for foreign students. Like a student G8 conference
  - Suggested students from universities in other countries
- Hold it off campus, even in Durham
  - Opportunity to mix roommates, force interaction
- Populate with ‘Rockstar’ Faculty, and have them promote it
  - Weren’t sure how you determine whom
- Interdisciplinary is key – have it cross departments
Global Advising
Jess’ Analysis

The students thought this was the most needed, and the easiest to implement, although a small percentage saw no need for the program. All agreed there is a need to centralize information on global opportunities.

Key Themes that emerged

• Students want to engage in global citizenship, but not sure how
• They support anything that will improve advising
Global Advising
Overall Impressions

- Useful for Int’l internships
- Not a huge commitment
- Useful, but not sure it is needed
- Applies to the most students
- Implement ASAP
- Anything to help advising
- Isn’t it the student’s job to integrate info?
- Would definitely use it
- Fluff. Looks good on paper, but not needed

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Global Advising
Comments about Global Citizenship

Opportunity is here, but students don’t act on it

All admit to thinking about, few to discussing it

Discussed in one course

Not something we discuss
Other engaging experiences...

- **FOCUS /Common Ground**: Engaging with faculty really made these worth it
- **Service Learning Opportunities**: Push the students to grow
- **DukeEngage**: Every single student brought this up
- **Teachers without Borders/Engineers without Borders**: Latin dance club, Tutoring local Durhamites in English
- **Local clubs**
Integration of global experiences

The students were asked if these engaging events were connected, or singular

• Most said they were singular events
### Other topics that came up...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global Internships</td>
<td>• Nearly every group talked about this, they want access, don’t have to be paid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration of global opportunity information</td>
<td>• Feel that the information is out there, but hard to find. Need a single location</td>
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<tr>
<td>Need to improve advising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engage in more international activities on East Campus</td>
<td>• Feel that everything is on West Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Push faculty as the real resource</td>
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