

Submission Template for the 2017 OBTC Teaching Conference for Management Educators

1) Title, Abstract & Keywords

In your abstract, please include a brief session description (not to exceed 100 words), and three to four keywords. If your proposal is accepted, this description will be printed in the conference program.

Title: Navigating the Plethora of Study-Abroad Opportunities: What should we advise our students?

Abstract: At many colleges, international study is a process that aims to complement the undergraduates' entire collegiate experience. From a practical perspective, for most young adults this will be the only time they will have an opportunity to immerse themselves in a foreign culture, living and studying in the host country rather than being a tourist. In this session, I will describe various study-abroad models, discuss some of the benefits of studying abroad, address some home-college concerns, and provide details of a highly successful program that I have developed.

Key Words: Study Abroad, Global Education

2) Teaching Implications:

What is the contribution of your session to management pedagogy/andragogy? Specifically, please include your learning objectives, and describe what management and/or teaching topics are relevant to your session, and why. Also, include theoretical, disciplinary, or theoretical foundations that will help reviewers understand how your ideas fit within the broader field of management.

Disciplinary Foundation: In recent years there have been several studies seeking to measure the benefits gained by students studying abroad¹. While most of the studies report qualitative data, a study by the University System of Georgia shows that students who study abroad tend to have higher grade point averages (GPAs) and better college completion rates than their peers. (The results may be biased in that only the higher performing students are selected or choose to study abroad.) Never the less, the qualitative data summarized in the NAFSA report indicates that study-abroad experiences can have a long-lasting impact on participants' careers, education, and world views. The participants benefit not only academically but professionally and personally as well.

¹ http://www.nafsa.org/Resource-Library_Assets/Public_Policy/Measuring_the_Impact_of_Study_Abroad/

Pedagogy: In this session I will initiate a discussion into different models for study abroad, including direct enrolment, exchange partnerships, international campuses, and faculty led programs. I will also analyze the advantages, limitations, and concerns of each model.

Learning Objectives: Ideally a study-abroad experience should have two basic objectives:

1. To immerse the students into the culture (history, literature, theater, religion, social norms, etc.) of the host country. This can be achieved through classroom lectures, cultural activities, homestays, and field trips to significant sites.
2. For business and management students, to study the economy, entrepreneurship, management practices, legal environment, and business climate of the host country via lectures, meetings with business leaders, internships, and visits to national and international businesses.

Author's Experience: The author has significant experience in international education:

1. As a student – studied in Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States
2. As a tenured professor – employed in the United States
3. As a visiting professor (while on sabbatical) - taught in Australia, in Ireland, and in Italy
4. As a program director – developed a highly successful faculty-led study-abroad program that includes four weeks intensive study in Ireland.

As a result of this experience, the author actively encourages students to study abroad.

3) Session Description and Plan:

What will you actually do in this session? If appropriate, please include a timeline estimating the activities will you facilitate: how long will they take, and how will participants be involved? Please remember that reviewers will be evaluating how well the time request matches the activities you'd like to do, and the extent you can reasonably accomplish the session's goals. Reviewers will also be looking for how you are engaging the participants in the session.

In a roundtable session I plan to engage participants in a discussion of the role of study-abroad experiences as a crucial part of an undergraduate's education.

Format/Timeline:

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| My experience as a student studying abroad and as a professor teaching abroad | 5 minutes |
| Participants' experiences with study-abroad programs | 10 minutes |
| Moderated discussion. Topics for discussion include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Models for international study• Transferring credits and/or grades• Program rigor• Safety• Tourism v. Education• Costs | 25 minutes |
| I will describe a faculty-led program that I have developed including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning academic content and field trips• Local arrangements (housing, facilities, transportation)• A draft syllabus of the 2017 program• Costs• Participant recruitment and selection• Safety, discipline• Preparing for the unexpected | 10 minutes |
| Wrap-up and recommendations | 10 minutes |

4) Application to Conference theme:

How does your session fit with the overall OBTC theme of *Navigating the Changing Currents*?

A generation ago, very few U.S. students had an opportunity to study abroad while in college. This was not a priority for colleges or for undergraduates. The limited number of undergraduates who did study abroad reported a life-changing experience. Today the study abroad experience is becoming more common and at some colleges it is either mandatory or "strongly encouraged".

As faculty we have the responsibility of navigating the multitude of study-abroad options to certify that the students really benefit both academically and personally. We must navigate the changing currents to ensure that our students immerse themselves in a foreign culture, living and studying in the host country, rather than merely being tourists.

5) Unique Contribution to OBTC:

Have you presented the work in this proposal before? If so, how will it be different? Is this proposal under current review somewhere else? If so, please explain. How will your proposal be different for the OBTC conference?

No. But last year I attended a Thursday evening roundtable session “Serving our international students in management education”. Whereas this 2016 session focused on international students in the US, my proposed session will focus on US students studying management abroad. In both instances it is important that the students become immersed in the host-country culture and not see themselves as tourists.