

Conexiones and สัมพันธ์:
Developing effective
international
community
partnerships for study
abroad programs

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PhD

The background is a detailed historical map of the North Atlantic and Europe. The left side shows North America, including Hudson Bay, James Bay, and the Great Lakes, with various cities and geographical features labeled. The right side shows Europe, including the British Isles, Scandinavia, and the Mediterranean Sea, with numerous cities and regions marked. A white rectangular box with a thin blue border is centered over the map, containing the title and subtitle. A compass rose is located below the subtitle.

Overview of Program

Global Change, Communities, and Families in Northern Thailand



Program Overview: Northern Thailand

- 3-credit, 3 weeks in-country (9 hr. pre-departure orientation) ✨
- Contextual immersion experiences allow inductive learning with:
 - Indigenous students to learn handicrafts
 - Karen elders to learn weaving and cooking
 - Hmong college students to learn Hmong dating rituals, dance, music
- Uses human ecological and social justice lenses
 - Strengths of Thai culture juxtaposed with societal issues
 - Specific attention to Hmong & Karen (significant MN immigrant groups)









A historical map of the North Atlantic and Europe, showing the Americas, the North Atlantic, and parts of Europe and Africa. The map is detailed with geographical features, cities, and shipping routes. A white box with a blue border is overlaid on the map, containing the title and a compass rose. The map shows the North Atlantic, the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, and the Atlantic Ocean. It includes labels for various cities, islands, and geographical features. The map is oriented with North at the top.

Best Practices

Global Change,
Communities, and
Families in Northern
Thailand



Best Practices: Northern Thailand

With communities:



- Enter local spaces consciously (dress, behavior)
- Practice ethical & responsible consumption & photography (<https://dochas.ie/images-and-messages>)
- Don't make promises (help students understand this)
- Reciprocate: Learn and share in communities
- Explore non-verbal ways to engage; come prepared

Best Practices: Northern Thailand

With local partners:



- Debrief with partners
- Return multiple times to demonstrate commitment
- Consider how you can build an eventual exchange, at least with key staff/partners
- Compensate financially as if in your own space

Best Practices: Northern Thailand

Tips for developing community partnerships

- Communicate learning objectives clearly
- Longer-term relationships help learning objectives be realized over time
- Logistics - work through creditable educational study abroad company (I use CEPA-Abroad <https://www.cepa-abroad.org/> specializes in customized faculty-led learning abroad programs)

Future Goals

Global Change,
Communities, and
Families in Northern
Thailand



Future Goals: Northern Thailand

- Since inception in 2006 ✨
 - ➔ Concentrated in fewer places & rural areas
 - ➔ Honed learning experiences
 - ➔ Expanded to include Hmong in Laos in addition to Thailand, added Karen in 2017, hope to add Lahu or Akha in 2018
 - ➔ Discovered Child Safe organization and Center for Girls in 2016
 - ➔ May move to a focus on graduate education in 2019



Overview of Program

Summer in Sevilla:
Serving Families, Schools,
and Communities



A detailed historical map of Africa and surrounding regions, including parts of Europe, Asia, and the Americas. The map is color-coded and features various geographical labels in French, such as 'Tropique du Cancer', 'Equateur', and 'Desert Libyque'.

Program Overview: Sevilla, Spain

- 6-credit, 3 week in-country (15 hr pre-departure prep)
- Each course has 15-25 required hours of service learning
- Service sites sourced through local community partner:
 - Urban gardens
 - Early childhood education
 - Refugee centers
 - Social services centers

A historical map of the North Atlantic and Europe, showing the Americas, the North Atlantic, and parts of Europe and Africa. The map is detailed with geographical features, cities, and shipping routes. A white box with a blue border is overlaid on the map, containing the title and a compass rose.

Best Practices

Summer in Sevilla:
Serving Families, Schools,
and Communities





Best Practices: Sevilla, Spain

- Recruitment is a lot of work
 - Be visible, recruit outside of your program!
- Use student feedback to re-tool curriculum and help shape student expectations for next year
- Understand and respect our students' backgrounds to prepare them:
 - Non-traditional, 1st generation, no dorm experience, family background

A vintage-style map of Africa and the surrounding Atlantic Ocean. The map is green with various colored regions in orange, yellow, and pink. It includes labels for 'Tropique du Cancer', 'Equateur', and 'Océan'. The map is partially obscured by a white box containing text.

Best Practices: Sevilla, Spain

- Give students down time for processing
- Use a Google Doc for students to make an annotated “Best Of” list that they can share with the class and future students
- Use trauma-informed approach – be aware of (and educate students about) potential re-traumas in service activities

A vintage-style map of Africa and the surrounding Atlantic Ocean. The map is detailed with various geographical features, including the Tropic of Cancer, the Equator, and several islands. The colors are muted, with greens for land and blues for water. The text is in French, with labels like 'Tropique du Cancer', 'Equateur', and 'Iles Mascareignes'.

Best Practices: Sevilla, Spain

- Developing community partnerships:
 - We use a local partner to help source sites, dorm rooms, and meal plans (also helps with excursions)
 - Study Abroad office: grants available to faculty to travel in advance to explore community and potential partners

A historical map of the North Atlantic and Europe, showing the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Hudson Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean. The map includes various geographical features, cities, and sailing routes. A white box with a blue border is overlaid on the map, containing the text "Future Goals" and "Summer in Sevilla: Serving Families, Schools, and Communities".

Future Goals

Summer in Sevilla:
Serving Families, Schools,
and Communities

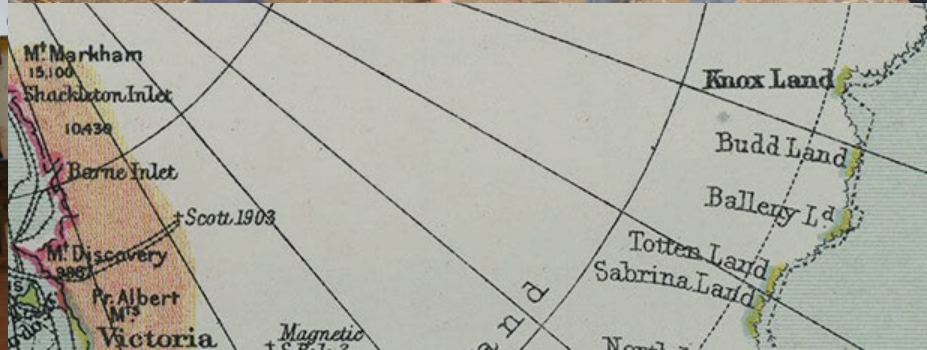


Future Goals: Sevilla, Spain



- Develop reciprocity – bring STEP partners to Denver
- Continue relationships with previous service learning sites: student internships









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