

Nuts & Bolts of Getting a Study Abroad Tour off the Ground



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Start with a Well-Defined Focus

- Do you have a theoretical framework to guide your tour?
- Will your tour align with a certain class?
- Are you targeting students from a specific discipline?
- What are your course objectives?



Planning Considerations

- How many cities/countries will be included in your tour?
- Are you familiar with the countries where you will be traveling?
- Do you and your students know the language?
- How many students are you taking with you?
- Will there be another faculty member with you?
- What is the timeline for proposals at your institution?



Provider or DIY?

Provider

- Assistance with Logistical Planning
- Tour Guide
- Interpreter
- Cost



DIY

- Logistics, such as transportation can be challenging!
- Opportunities to personalize the tour
- Utilize your personal connections
- Adaptability / Flexibility
- Faculty Control
- Cost



Utilize University Resources

- Study Abroad Office and/or International House
 - Passport Support
- Financial Aid Office
 - Scholarships
 - Grants & Loans
- Service-Learning/Engagement Office



Create a balance between academic experiences, cultural excursions, and free time to explore

Trip: 16 days

- Days 1 and 2: Leave the US (traveling to NZ and AU)
- Day 3: Allow the day to rest, explore the city, group dinner
- Day 4: Start the study abroad with a BANG – group cultural excursion
- Day 5: Academic experiences (1 in the am, 1 in the afternoon), evening free
- Day 6: Academic experience (1 in the am), group cultural excursion in the afternoon, evening free
- Day 7: morning free, afternoon flight to Sydney, AU
- Day 8: morning free, exploring city, group dinner, group cultural excursion
- Day 9: morning free, group cultural excursion, evening free
- Day 10: academic experiences (1 in the am, 1 in the afternoon), evening free
- Day 11: academic experience in the am, afternoon flight to Cairns, AU
- Day 12: morning free, group cultural excursion afternoon, evening free
- Day 13: all day group cultural excursion, group dinner
- Day 14: morning flight to Brisbane, AU, academic experience in the afternoon
- Day 15: all day group cultural excursion, group dinner (End with a BANG!)
- Day 16: Flight back to the US

Planning Tips

- Group dinner in each city
 - At a restaurant (casual, more upscale), in faculty hotel suite, in a pub
- Start and end the study abroad with a BANG!
- Intermix academic experiences with cultural excursions
- Try to allow some free time each day
- Schedule flights for late afternoon or early evening
- Debrief with students
 - Check in regularly and at the end of the trip.
- Maximize your time each day --- but less is often “more meaningful”

