Research Abroad: Adopting a Legacy Program to Fit the Current Needs of Students

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Overview

- Research Abroad the Legacy
- Headwinds
- Research Abroad 2.0
- Lessons Being Learned
Research Abroad the Legacy

- Established by previous director to offer cultural based research opportunities and global engagement.

- Programmatic Aspects
  - 5-6 students would travel over Spring Break to a country.
  - Would participate in pre-trip workshops to develop research plan.
  - Conduct research and present at Discovery Day.
Program Change Overtime

2016 to 2018

◦ Program increased to a total of 16 students
◦ Students were required to write a research manuscript
◦ Used vendors to arrange majority of travel
◦ Program fees averaged between $2,500 to $3,000 per student
Headwinds

The Trip that Failed

◦ Fall 2018 trip planned for Morocco
◦ Cost for student would be around $3,200
◦ Initial interest was strong
◦ Trip failed to attract enough students to make the numbers work

Other Barriers

◦ Students could not use aid for trip
◦ No class credit offered
◦ Costs
◦ Heavy use of political capital to get needed approvals for trip
Research Abroad 2.0
ERAU Strengths

- Popular ERAU Summer Abroad Programs
- Strong Faculty Support for Engaging Students in Research
- Institutional Support for Student Engagement in Globalization
- Programmatic Support for Development of Research Proposals and Manuscripts
Research Abroad 2.0

- Partnered with Office of Global Engagement to identify trips and potential student participants
- Students worked with OUR in a pre-trip Canvas based course to develop a mini-research proposal
- OUR works with the students after the trip to develop manuscript and poster presentation
- Students receive a $1,000 travel grant for their participation
Lessons Being Learned

- IRB approvals delayed students research causing them to modify project
- Some faculty helped students more than others
- Holding students accountable for final deliverables
- Adjusting program to meet students needs
Questions?

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