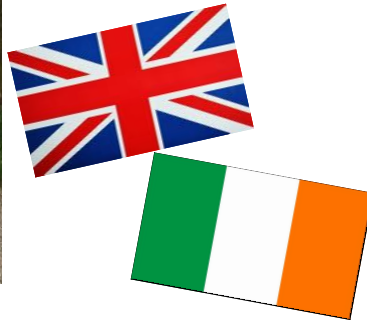


Benefits, Challenges, and Reflections of Study Abroad Experiences



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A Little About Our Program



- The University Participant (UP) Program is a two year, inclusive program for college-aged individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- Operated as a pilot program from 2007 to 2010; 2 UP students completed the program by 2010.
- Expanded to 4 UP students in 2010, 4 additional in 2011 for a total of 8 UP students.
- Funded as a model demonstration site in 2010 by U.S. Department of Education and now funded by WCU.

How The Adventures Began



Fulbright Scholar
London and Salzburg
Years of Experience



Connections in
Ireland
Coordination of
Supports
Travel
Experiences




All shared
passion for
inclusion and
study abroad
experiences




**Maynooth
University**
National University
of Ireland Maynooth

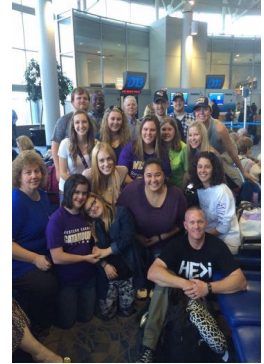
Pre-Trip Planning and Recruitment

- Flyers posted campus wide and through International Programs website
- Initial application process sent out college wide
- Experience or background working with individuals with disability (preferred)
- Consideration of previous travel experiences
- Motivation and interest to study abroad (Why?)
- General health and stamina for physical activity
- Behavior, conduct, and maturity levels
- Financial aid/support for trip costs/deposits



Benefits and Planning Together

- Having more than one instructor/support staff
- Initial meetings and 12 hours of prior instruction
- Coordination and pre-travel plans based on interest
- Development of itinerary and organizations to visit WITH ALL students' input
- Maintaining the focus and mission of the trip
- Working with different university offices
- Auditing and course credits options with Registrar
- Considerations for too much or too little/trip length
- Checklists, financial planning, family fears



Departure and Anticipated Challenges

- Scheduling of supports ahead of time
- Time differences/respice
- Currency exchange info/practice
- Transportation
- Cultural norms/etiquette
- Communication without phones, Wi-Fi
- Balancing lodging and roommates
- Presentations and roles during visits
- Airport security training
- Importance of Passports and IDs



Living and Learning Together

- Readings and meetings before departure
- Partner projects and webquests
- Lists, how to videos, and task analyses
- Videos, visuals, and German lessons
- Student voice and choice- hobbies/itinerary
- Scheduling and balancing respite
- Blogs, vlogs, journaling, universal design
- Choices with final projects and collaboration
- Information exchange among students

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BoYkygObKcI>

Created by: Jamie Adams



Travel Considerations

- **Lessons Learned from Our Experiences**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIZMYIM9DuM>



Student Reflections

SPED 493: Programs and Services for Adults with Developmental Disabilities in England and Ireland



- Inclusive study abroad experience
- Visit agencies, organizations, PSE programs, research centers
- Students wrote daily reflections about experiences (70 entries)
- Open coding system consistent with GT (340 initial codes)

Shared Categories



Professional
Cultural
Adaptive skills



Importance of first hand
accounts from English &
Irish adults with ID.



Common identity
Emotional closeness
Group cohesion



Students without ID

- Distinct categories
 - **Barrier Awareness**
 - Physical
 - Social
 - Educational
 - **Inclusive learning**
 - Multiple lenses
 - Cognizance of universal support needs (interdependence)



Students with ID

- Distinct Categories
 - **Transportation experiences**
 - Learning multiple modes of transport
 - Pride/accomplishment
 - **“Fun”**
 - Exploration & recreation
 - Shedding labels
 - Satisfaction
 - Discovering new identities



Implications

- Inclusive study abroad is possible and beneficial for all parties.
- PSE programs should help facilitate study abroad
- Dignity of risk



Questions and Discussion



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