

# Study Abroad

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LEARNING OUTCOMES AND THE EFFECTS OF CULTURE

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# Study Abroad Literature

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*Black & Duhon, 2006*

*Peppas, 2005*

*Bond, Koont & Stephenson, 2005*

*Chieffo & Griffiths, 2004*

*Dwyer, 2004*

*Ingraham & Peterson, 2004*

*Orahood, Kruze & Pearson, 2004*

*Sutton & Rubin, 2004*

*Farrell & Suvedi, 2003*

*Gray, Murdock & Stebbins, 2002*

*Carlson, Burn, Useem & Yachimowicz, 1990*

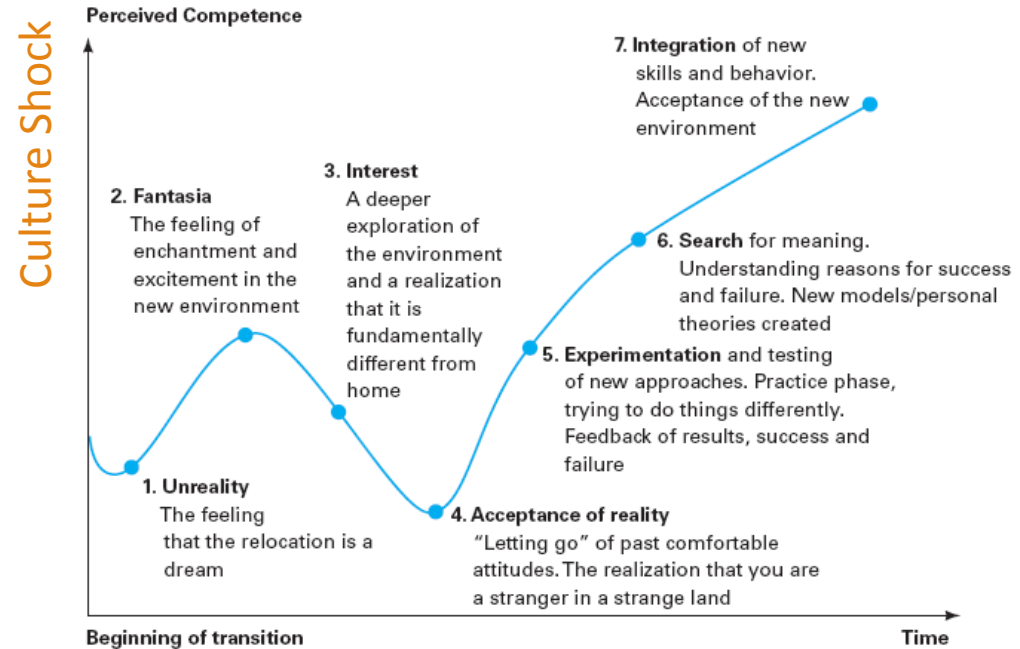
## **Relevant Conclusions**

- Duration impacts learning outcomes
- Study abroad students outperform others
- Goals/expectations tend to mirror actual or perceived outcomes

# Learning Outcomes and Culture

## Learning Outcomes

- Language Learning
- Intercultural Competence
- Disciplinary Knowledge
- Social Growth



Source: Adapted from Iain McCormick and Tony Chapman, "Executive Relocation: Personal and Organizational Tactics," in *Managing Across Cultures: Issues and Perspectives*, ed. Pat Joynt and Malcolm Warner (London: International Thomson Business Press, 1996), p. 368.

# Methods

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Population (Pilot - Spring 2013)

Email Invitation to Participate

Raffle Incentive

<https://survey.lilt.ilstu.edu/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=94236n41>

Electronic Survey using “Select Survey”

<https://survey.lilt.ilstu.edu/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=n2215p6M>



# Sample Characteristics

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All US Nationals

2/3 Female

2/3 were 20 or 21 years old

## Majors

*International Business*

*HR and Organizational Leadership*

*Communications*

*Criminal Justice/Psychology*

*Political Science*

*Legal Studies*

*Spanish*

*Spanish Teacher Education*

*Elementary Education*

*Apparel Design*

## Host Countries

*Germany*

*Taiwan*

*England*

*Spain*

*Italy*

*Argentina*

*Australia*

# Culture-Related Items

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## **Most Favorable Responses**

Had meaningful social interactions with local people

Gained insight into the culture of host country

Enhanced understanding of host country's culture

Actively tried to learn more about local customs and traditions of host country

Developed own perspective of host country

Did not wish to escape from new environment

## **Least Favorable Responses**

Subscribed to the religious and/or political beliefs of host country

Missed family and friends back home

# Learning Outcome-Related Items

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## **Most Favorable Responses**

Enhanced independence

Enhanced self-reliance

Increased ability to cope with unfamiliar situations

Increased level of comfort with people different from myself

More open-minded

Increased curiosity about other cultures

## **Least Favorable Responses**

Improved ability to speak a foreign language

Improved academic performance

Made me reconsider my career plans

Helped to find professional direction

# Student Comments

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## **Most Memorable Experience**

Travel/Visits/Exploring/Backpacking  
Bonding with locals

## **Expectations Met**

Forming friendships  
Learning about the host country  
Deeper appreciation / deeper views  
Warm reception from family and friends upon return

## **Expectations NOT Met**

Language ability  
Meaningful connection with host family  
Professor's explanations (vagueness)  
Expected those at home to have changed as well  
Upon return, keeping in touch with friends met while abroad



# Next Steps

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## Literature Review

Draw from expatriate research

## Methodology

Survey revision

Larger sample from multiple institutions

## Implications

Why reinvent the wheel?

*Can expatriate research inform study abroad research?*

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# Contact Information

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