Study abroad and student success: What’s the connection?

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What is student success?

“...broadly defined to include satisfaction, persistence, and high levels of learning and personal development”

(Kuh et al., 2011)
Success and Study Abroad

Study abroad participants:

- show an increased rate of retention and graduation
- progress through their degree quicker
- have a higher rate of engagement in other high impact practices which are also shown to lead to increased retention
- of low SES background are more likely to graduate (and in shorter time) than non-participants of low SES background
- of a minority background are more likely to graduate than minority non-participants
...but are we preaching to the converted?

Considering that engagement is a critical factor in determining student retention and success, our research is aimed at measuring the difference as a direct result of study abroad participation.
Quantitative study

Areas examining:
- Respondent’s background
- Overseas program
- Motivations to study abroad
- Intention to leave university
- Engagement

Collected prior to departure (Time 1), AND
Followed by a post-study abroad survey to measure difference (Time 2)

We are currently at Time 1 stage and expect collect Time 2 data in March 2018.
Measuring engagement


- Academic: 4.07
- Peer: 4.22
- Beyond-class: 4.47
- Student-staff: 4.73
- Intellectual: 4.76

Pre-departure

n = 132
Many institutions are already implementing great initiatives when it comes to study abroad and student success, however there is progress to be made with forming **cohesive and inclusive strategies** to address both.

What can global mobility practitioners do?

- Continue to reduce barriers to study abroad
- Start and maintain dialogue with other university elements (no more silo mentality)
- Produce more evidence-based research around engagement and retention of study abroad participants
What can other university elements do?

- Include global mobility in student success strategies
- Let the mobility team know who your students are and what support they need
- Cross-promote overseas programs through your channels
THANK YOU

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