Studying and Living Abroad
An Edinburgh Napier Undergraduate Module

Module developed by
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Background: Languages Degree in Scotland

- 4 year Honours course
- Study Abroad as integral part of study in 3rd year
- Students need to gain 60 ECTS (120 SCQF) credits while abroad
Why we developed this module

Students going abroad were
• anxious
• ill-prepared
• not making full use of this year
• struggling with the workload

“German everywhere…. And I can’t understand it.”
We want students to maximise the benefits of studying abroad by developing the following skills:

- Self-development
- Reflection
- Intercultural awareness
Learning Outcomes of module

• Identify challenges
• Develop strategies
• Reflect on different environments and develop intercultural awareness
• Enhance communication skills
• Critically reflect on the learning experience
• Develop transferable skills
The module is delivered over two semesters

**Semester 1:** Preparation for studying abroad

Series of workshops and tasks

**Semester 2:** During study abroad

Series of reflective tasks
## Calendar of activities for Part 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEKS</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25/01/2012</td>
<td>Introduction session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/02/2012</td>
<td>IT Workshop: setting-up your e-portfolio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22/02/2012</td>
<td>Workshop on “Dealing with the challenges of studying and living abroad”</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/03/2012</td>
<td>Workshop on “What is culture shock?”</td>
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<tr>
<td>21/03/2012</td>
<td>Personal development: setting up a Plan of Action for your period abroad</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Erasmus session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/04/2012</td>
<td>“Getting ready”: a quiz to help you check you are ready to go abroad.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR STUDYING ABROAD

1. Where can I go?

It is paramount that it has been agreed with your Programme leader that you are allowed to go abroad and study for the second semester as part of your Programme of Studies.

You can choose to go to an institution of an European Union country where there is a signed Erasmus agreement with Edinburgh Napier University and where there is a suitable Programme of studies.

You can also choose to go and study in the United States or Canada. To go to the US, you will need to be registered on to the ISEP Programme. To get more information about this scheme, and about Canada, please contact as soon as you can the International Office, Room B 40, Merchiston Campus. Contact person: Slawek Staniszewski (s.staniszewski@napier.ac.uk).

The following table shows the different Erasmus agreements the Edinburgh Napier Business School has with European institutions. Most of the institutions offer courses taught in English.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICHEC</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ichec.be">www.ichec.be</a></td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEKO</td>
<td><a href="http://www.teko.dk">www.teko.dk</a></td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Art &amp; Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noea Institute of Applied Management</td>
<td><a href="http://www.noea.dk">www.noea.dk</a></td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tallin University of Technology</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ttu.ee">www.ttu.ee</a></td>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GETTING STARTED

• Create your blog: choose an address such as: yournamestudyabroad
• Choose a template
• Create a list of pages:
  ➢ Information about the country
  ➢ Information about the host institution
  ➢ Practical Information
  ➢ Calendar of Activities
  ➢ Assignments
  ➢ Plan of Action
• Write about yourself
• Explain why you are going abroad

SEND YOUR BLOG ADDRESS TO:
b.oebrian@napier.ac.uk
Preparing for the challenge of studying and working abroad

Language Placement Students
Wednesday 22nd February 2012
9am – 11am
Craiglockhart, Room 2/06

Facilitator: Anne MacNab
Edinburgh Napier University

Culture Shock

Workshop 2013

Carla Visser
c.visser@napier.ac.uk
CULTURE SHOCK

Typical stages:

1. Honeymoon
2. Disintegration
3. Adjustment
4. Acculturation
5. Return culture shock
LNG09120 - STUDY ABROAD

PLAN OF ACTION

- 5 specific actions before you go
- 3 specific challenges you have identified:
  - what actions are you going to take to achieve them?
  - what actions are you going to take if you get into difficulty?
Assessment

“The type of assessment used influences styles of learning” (Brown et al, 1997)

LOs predominantly concerned with reflection and personal development

E-portfolios foster the use of creativity and encourage reflection on learning (Biggs 2007)
ASSESSMENT TASKS FOR SEMESTER 1:

1. **Essay** on “Cultural Shock”

2. **Information research:**
   a. **Summary of country specific information** about the area and institution of the destination
   b. **Quiz: series of practical questions** related to the destination.

3. **Identification of 5/6 topics of current affairs** in the destination country
ASSESSMENT TASKS FOR SEMESTER 2 (while abroad)

1. REFLECTIVE REPORTAGE
The Reflective Reportage should include the following:
   a. Reflection on Personal Development
   b. Reflection on Academic Development
   c. Analysis of 2 critical incidents

Illustration should be given using different media sources (at least 3 media sources)
2. ANALYSIS OF 2 CHOSEN CURRENT AFFAIRS

The **analysis** should:

- Show the development of each topic overtime
- Compare and contrast different sources (all referenced)
- Be supported by statements with quotes, citations
- Be properly written with clear articulation and within the word count.
Assessment tasks include

- traditional (essay, quiz) and innovative (multi-media journal) elements,
- authentic assessments (information gathering)
- declarative (quiz) and reflective (essay, journal) elements
- formative and summative elements (current affairs)
- sustainable learning (journal)
Bayern ist aber eine Ausnahme in Deutschland. Bayern steht allein als das einzige Land Deutschlands das keine Semester-Tickets anbietet. Zum Beispiel in Nordrhein-Westfalen zahlen die Studenten 232€ pro Semester für 150 km rund um ihre Stadt mit allen regionalen Verkehrsmitteln. Weil es nichts vergleichbares in Schottland gibt, es ist klar das dieses Semester-Ticket sehr beliebt ist bei Leuten, die es in ihrem Bundesland schon haben. Vor kurzem haben die Studenten in Bayern gewählt, ob ein Semester-Ticket nächstes Winter Semester eingeführt werde sollte oder nicht. Am Anfang dachte ich
Weitere Medien zum Thema

Audio über ein Problem mit dem Studentenwohnheim
Outstanding Issues

- Practicalities of e-portfolios
- Foreign students may not need intercultural training
- Some students intimidated
- Language is still unresolved
Concluding Remarks

- Students are better prepared
- Workload abroad is eased
- Reflective and intercultural skills are enhanced
- Students have documentation of their development
"My year in Québec was probably the best part of my degree; my French improved drastically, I met amazing people and the university activities allowed me to travel and get to know Québec and the region. My year abroad was definitely a once-in-a-lifetime experience and it was an amazing opportunity to see the world a bit."

Annika Rautiola
Bibliography


