A Community Approach: Overcoming Resistance and Taking Intercultural Interventions Beyond Curricular Solutions
“As long as people believe that their way of being in the world is the only or the best way; it is very difficult for them to see alternative perspectives or to engage in reflective discourse” (Cranton, 1994, p. 196).
The Georgetown Consortium Project: Interventions for Student

• Study abroad participants from 61 programs
• 1,296 intercultural learning

Cultural mentors are always good

Maximizing Study Abroad

- 1-credit online course
- Develop culture & language learning strategies
- Short readings, reflective journaling
Rationale for MaxSA Course

- Opportunity for reflection
- Conscious learning
- Cultural understanding and adaptation
- Language learning process
- Documentation of learning
- Articulating transferable skills
- Evidence of SA outcomes
- Different learning styles

- Ideal time to guide learning
Challenges

• Mandatory = Resistance
• Access to Technology On-Site
• Didn’t connect to content
• 1-credit Course
• S/N Grade Base
• Buy-in from US & on-site staff
• Training TA’s
Three models

Onsite-only ➔ Toledo, Spain

Hybrid ➔ London, England

Online-only ➔ all other LAC-sponsored programs
Lessons Learned

• Students don’t value intercultural learning
• Want something tangible
• Academic readings
• Not mandatory
Global Identity: Connecting your International Experience to your Future

- Training
- Modules developmental
- Different learning styles
- Concrete take away-career skills
- Incorporate varied readings
- A/F Grade base
- Maintain cultural mentor
- Maintain re-entry
What Students Say About GI

• “I am so grateful for all this course had to offer. I did not expect the readings to relate as much as they did to the study abroad experience. I was also very impressed and surprised with how timely the assignments were assigned. They fit perfectly with the stages of cultural immersion discourse. I would highly recommend this course to any student who is studying abroad.”

• My TA “did a great job giving me genuinely valuable feedback and encouraging me to delve deeper into what I was writing about in my assignments. I thought it was especially interesting that he had spent time in my host country as well, so he could relate even further to my situation. I was incredibly impressed by how he helped me through the program. I've never had a TA that's done that much work.”

• “To be honest, I took this course because I needed one more credit. But now I realize that my semester abroad would not have been as meaningful, nor would I have learned so much about my host-culture, as well as my own, were it not for Global Identity. Thank you so much!”

• “Thank you so much for your thorough feedback, advice, and help this semester as I transitioned through my study abroad experience! I enjoyed this course very much, and I honestly feel like I can take more ownership of the entire process because of the global identity.”
What Employers are Seeking

National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Job Outlook 2014 Survey

• Ability to work in a team structure
• Ability to make decisions and solve problems
• Ability to verbally communicate with persons, inside and outside the organization
To what extent do you consider your education abroad experience worthwhile for the enhancement of your ability to appreciate & interact with individuals different from yourself?
To what extent do you consider your education abroad experience worthwhile for the enhancement of your ability to problem solve and use analytical skills?

1 (lowest)  34  5%
2          63  9%
3        189 27%
4       232 33%
5 (highest) 186 26%
To what extent do you consider your education abroad experience worthwhile for the enhancement of your interpersonal and communication skills?

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Research on Global Identity

Smith (2013) found that students who took the course were much more able “...to articulate and market skills, new perspectives, and awareness, and had a greater understanding of intercultural frameworks...” than those who studied abroad and did not take the course (p. 137).

In today’s job market, intercultural sensitivity and communication along with emotional intelligence are essential. Until you yourself have felt like an ‘other’, it is possible that you may never be able to empathize with that kind of vulnerability.