

Ethical Considerations in Planning for Service-Learning Components during Program Development

Service-learning abroad benefits students

- Students more motivated to solve problems after experiencing them first hand
- Increased engagement in class compared to those in the same classes without service learning
- Students are able to more concretely relate material they learned to real life.
- Increased Global awareness
- High level of Cultural immersion

BUT HOW DO WE ENSURE IT ALSO BENEFITS HOST COMMUNITIES?

Considerations for different approaches to set-up

FACULTY/SCHOOL EXISTING CONNECTIONS

- Careful of communities saying 'yes' to maintain relationship
- Need to identify a local expert in topic area, not rely on expertise you bring
- Consider sustainability

REACHING OUT DIRECTLY TO LOCAL NGOS

- Identify NGO working within topic area already
- Establish prior experience with foreign visitors
- Do a site visit to ensure legitimacy
- Identify resources needed for you to help and what you will need to provide or purchase

WORKING WITH PROVIDERS

- Establish experience specifically in service programming
- Consider alternatives presented
- Discuss sustainability

2 FOCAL PRINCIPLES



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

- Is the proposed work addressing a need identified by the community?
- Is there existing work addressing the issue?
- Will the work be done under the leadership, supervision and guidance of locals?
- Is there a local person who can be relied upon to be honest in identifying potential negative impact?
- Is there local support in place to guide students with regards to cultural norms, expectations and practices?
- Are there local people who have experience dealing with foreigners?

Local experts can help identify specific negative impacts such as;

- If the work being done takes away from a local
- Whether program puts additional pressure on limited resources



SUSTAINABILITY

- What are the outcomes of the project after it is completed?
- Does the work continue when you leave?
- Is there a capacity-building element?
- Can the work initiated by your group be built upon by locals, by you or by others going forward?
- Do local resources exist to maintain outcomes?

What to think about when running a program

BE HONEST IN CONSIDERING MOTIVATION AND ACADEMIC/PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Share your motivations and considerations openly with these experts as you look to set up a program

PREPARATION

- Raising student awareness of issues - motivations, ethical concerns, role as learners
- Importance of intercultural understanding - not just stereotypes.
- Critical self-reflection - how student's culture and background influences behaviour and expectations

DURING

- Importance of listening and observing over doing
- Considering double-effect - unintended consequences
- Identify potential for power hierarchy to be misused

EXTRA CONSIDERATIONS FOR HEALTH

- Ensuring practice only where qualified
- Upholding domestic professional standards of care & practice
- Following local laws for practice
- Considerations of of privacy and confidentiality

ON COMPLETION

- Evaluation
- Consider how the work can be taken forward