

Globalization of Undergraduate Research

2014 National Conference on Undergraduate Research
Lexington, KY

Background:

Ever since Marco Polo
US students studying abroad Open Doors
4% of Education majors

Challenges:

Sequential curriculum for US academic majors
Discrepancies between US and foreign curricula
Lack of STEM courses taught abroad in English
Lack of justification for studying abroad
Culture shock – language, values, habits, social support network
Lack of US students' knowledge about history, politics, social environments of the foreign students
Lack of foreign students' knowledge about research: support system, self-esteem, self-motivation, intellectual property
Different ethical standards for conducting research with human subjects

Opportunities:

Foreign students have resources: family support, access to local data for surveys and interviews
Foreign students are motivated, eager learners who have invested a lot in education

International Summer Internship Program

12 weeks May to August
International UG students @ MSU for summer research with MSU faculty and UG students
China, Russia, Brazil, Turkey, India, US

US faculty members design research projects, form teams (US and foreign students) and supervise the project work

Application Criteria:

@ least 1 year experience in related area (education, chemistry, etc.)
Applicants select their top 3 choices among the research projects
Applicants are endorsed by their home institution
Application form, CV, transcripts, recommendations, US student visa, proof of international health insurance

Costs/Expenditures to MSU:

Tuition and fees - waived for students from universities with agreement at MSU
Internet access on campus
Library

Recreation Center
Local bus transportation

Costs to international students:

International travel
Local transportation / rental car
Housing and meals with host families
Extra & personal expenses
Translators/interpreters

Excursions:

Organized activities: hiking, baseball game, visit regional scientific research centers, museum, parks, aquarium, soccer game
Activities with host families and with members of student clubs
Trips to Mall of America, MN zoo, Science Museum of MN

Timeline:

Oct propose research projects; application materials available
Oct/Nov Students select research project and apply; Foreign university recommends applicants
Dec/Jan
Feb/Mar Complete visa application and insurance;
May /Jul Internship
Aug Internship report and defense; evaluation surveys

Support from:

International center
Academic departments
Housing & dining services
IT services
Recreation center

Funding:

NSF has funding for international undergraduate research programs

Outcomes:

Self-report questionnaires for students, faculty members, host families
Publications
Posters at conferences
Oral presentations at conferences
Next steps in research
International students into US undergrad programs
International students into US graduate schools
MSU students into foreign undergrad programs
MSU students into foreign graduate schools
Foreign faculty visitors

If tuition/fees are waived, how are faculty paid?
Are faculty mentors paid? With summer fellowship stipends
Is the coordinator paid?
Human subjects review?