## Why Study Economics Abroad?

- Globalization of markets
- Privatization
- Trade liberalization
- Time and distance no longer barriers to cooperation
- Field trips are more cost and time effective
- Accreditation mandates
- Experiential learning
- Application of economic theory within social and political contexts.
- Students will be more aware of the necessity of emotional resilience, flexibility, perceptual acuity and personal autonomy when operating in a cross-cultural milieu.

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## A Study Abroad Experience Checklist

1. Get started early – brainstorm location with students
2. Scout location first – use your network
3. Be aware of limits – cost and time
4. Develop a realistic budget and value proposition
5. Tour broker overhead versus doing it yourself tradeoffs
6. Match course offering to degree plans
7. Advance a promotional plan to recruit students
8. Create syllabus and assurance of learning metrics
9. Recruit students early, limit disruptions like travel deviations

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## Ultimate Field Trips

### Fair Trade Coffee: Guatemala
- Explain the Fair Trade movement and its benefits for producers and consumers.
- Students conduct a service learning project and visit a community based social venture engaged in using an innovative sustainable model

### Private Enterprise: Cuba
- Analyze the impact of financial, economic, and commercial embargoes.
- Comprehend economic reforms to allow for greater private enterprise, development of commercial codes, reduced government expenditures, challenges to improving productivity and wage raise mandates.

### Economic Geography: Hawaii
- To understand the rationale for the location of industries and cities.
- To develop sustainable and environmental awareness by exploring issues in natural resource conservation, climate change, deterritorialized statehood, greenhouse gas solutions, clean and renewable energy alternatives (geothermal, wind, wave, solar) and best ecotourism practices.

### Manufacturing Abroad: China
- Visit manufacturers to understand comparative advantage
- Foresee the increasingly important role of China in international affairs

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## Challenges

The field trip immersion experience must be pursued beyond a mere token effect. Itinerary development must be intentional with respect to assessing course objectives by emphasizing learning rather than leisure.

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## Assessment

- Contribution and engagement
- Journaling & reflective essays
- Academic papers
- Cultural adaptability inventory
- Pre and post trip survey
- Field trip participation
- Necessity of rubrics
- An exam

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## Reminders

- Cooperate with university study abroad office
- Create an interdisciplinary team of professors to lead the trip.
- Have reliable study abroad providers and partners
- Recruit, recruit, recruit
- Schedule generous free time
- Expect difficulties
- Develop contingency plans
- Overcome language barriers
- Security is essential
- Emergency contacts needed
- Be prepared for a range of emotional reactions
- Establish a clear code of conduct
- Interact with local students
- Schedule home visits in destination location
- Do less in order to learn more

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Even in challenging economic times, making sure that study abroad is part of our college students' education is a vital investment. If we want a new generation of leaders and innovators who can be effective in an ever more globalized world, sending our students overseas is not a luxury, it is a necessity.

Allan E. Goodman
President, Institute of International Education

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