

Virtual Journal Clubs



Matthias Lang



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Why?



Thanks for taking your time to enable this wonderful, new experience! I hope that the VJC will continue in the next years for new cohorts as it is an excellent experience to think out of the box and apply the economic knowledge gained during the first semesters of the Bachelor studies.

I very much enjoyed the experience.

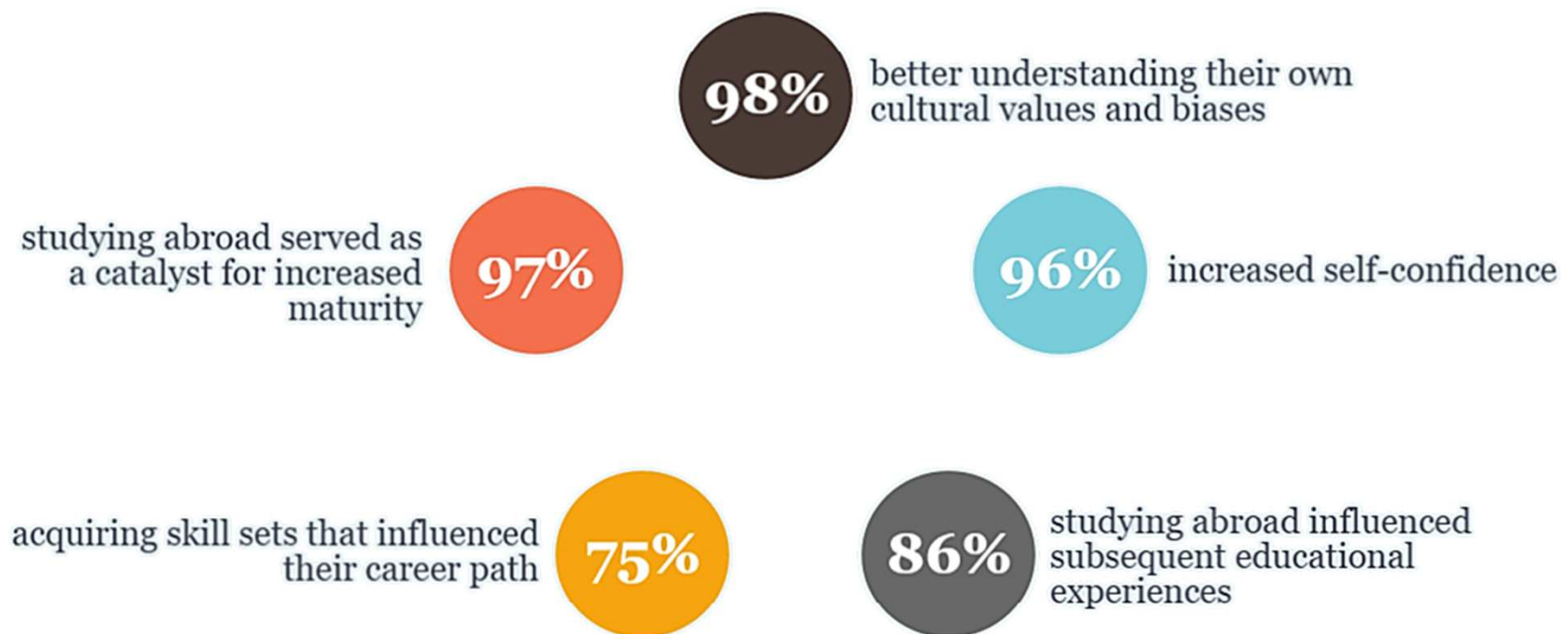
I would for sure recommend the VJC.

The VJC provides a culturally diverse selection of students with the possibility to engage in meaningful discussions, to explore their academic interests and to develop the ability to make connections between economic models and everyday observations.

First of all thank you very much! It was amazing and I enjoyed it a lot! It was generally a great course, and with corona I appreciated it even more.

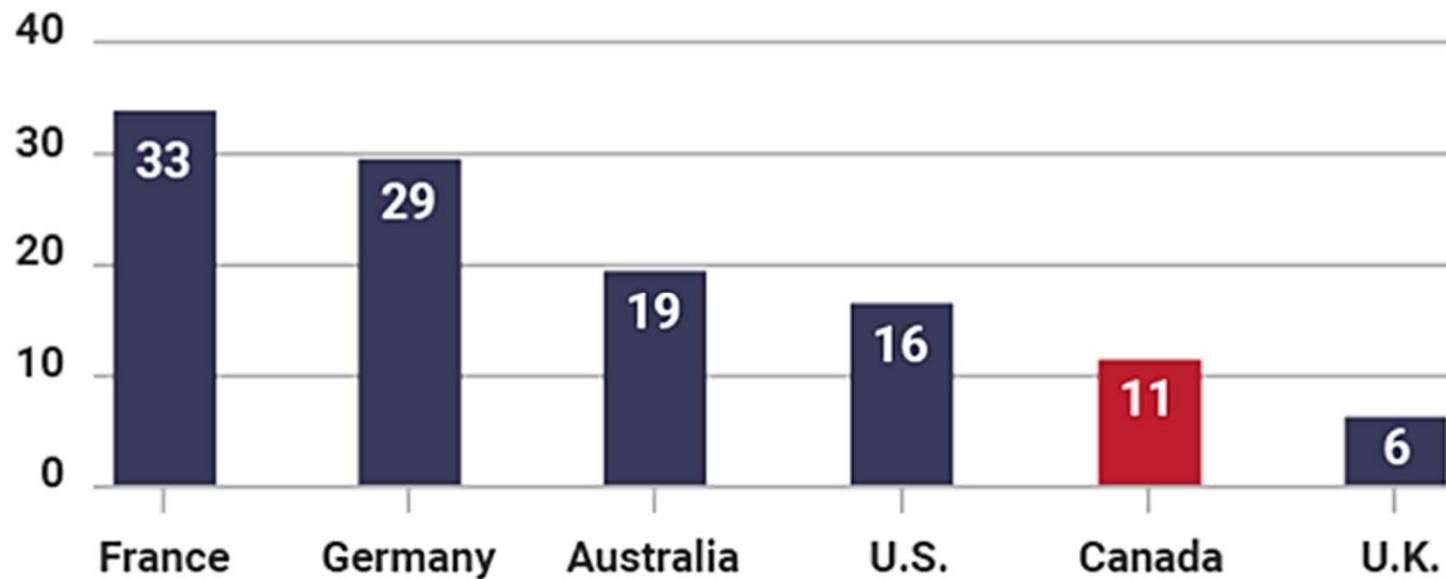


Students benefit from int'l experience



Source: <http://www.iesabroad.org/study-abroad/why/alumni-survey-results>

Yet, few Canadian students participate.



Data sources: France: Campus France (2015); Germany: German Academic Exchange Service (2013); Australia: Government of Australia (2015); U.S.: National Survey of Student Engagement (2016); Canada: National Survey of Student Engagement (2016) and Universities Canada (2014). All figures are for university students.

What is a Virtual Exchange Program?



Internationally shared learning experiences



Why a Virtual Exchange Program?



- Cost effective, equitable, inclusive
- Integrates multicultural and international perspectives in the classroom
- Stepping stone to in-person international mobilities
- Global fluencies and future workplace skills as intercultural communication, teamwork, creativity, critical thinking

The Virtual Journal Club: One of Many GNL Ways



2-week project

Example:

- International Refugee Protection
- 18+30+30 students
- Multi-country analysis & case studies

Guest lectures

Example:

- Global Health Policy:
- 99+44+18 students
- Comparative Policy analysis

Co-curricular

Example:

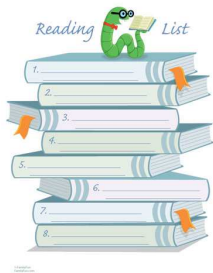
- VJC
- 10+10 students
- Early Research exposure

Joint course

Example:

- Real Engineering: Space Pilot Program
- 16+30 students
- Co-development of knowledge/learning products

Five Ingredients



Reading List



Partner



Timeline & Objectives



Action Plan



Adaptability

Reading List

Example

- Papers, you enjoy, but don't get to teach
- An exciting niche in your field
- Survey over subfield(s)

Material

- you know well
- easily accessible
- not typically covered



Reading List

Our Reading List

- 8 (10) seminal papers, matched with
- 8 (10) general-audience books
- Each pair on a different subfield, not typically taught

Week	Meeting Date	Topic	Reading
1	27-Oct	Introduction	Akerlof: The Market for Lemons
2	5-Nov	Theory of the firm	Bloom, Van Reenen: Measuring and Explaining Management Practices Across Firms and Countries
3	12-Nov		One of: • John Love: Behind the Golden Arches TPL-H • Sam Walton: Made In America TPL-H
4	19-Nov	Public Policy	Donohue, Levitt: The impact of legalized abortion on crime.
5	26-Nov		One of: • David Shieler: The Working Poor YU-H, TPL-H, LMU-E • Jessica Bruder: Nomadland YU-H, TPL-E, TPL-H
6	3-Dec	Economics of Information and Incentives	Garicano, Possner: Intelligence Failures
7	10-Dec		One of: • Michael Hirsh: Capital Offense YU-H • Merrill R Chapman: In Search of Stupidity YU-H, TPL-E, TPL-H, LMU-E
8	17-Dec	Behavioral	One of: • Richard Thaler, Cass Sunstein: Nudge YU-H, TPL-E, TPL-H • Cass Sunstein: Why Nudge? YU-E, YU-H, TPL-H, LMU-E



Reading List

What would you like to introduce students to?

Partner

Anyone who

- Teaches at any university
- Supervises students in internships
- ...

Consider

- Colleagues you know elsewhere
- Former peers who have moved abroad
- Universities looking for York Partners



Partner

Our Partnership



“Would you be interested in running a VJC with me?”

- Colleague 1 (at U1): Sounds great. Sorry, swamped.
- Colleague 2 (at U2): Sounds great. Super swamped. Let me reach out to others.
- New person (at U2): Ok. What do we do?

Matthias Lang at LMU

- Never met in person before starting VJC
- Never worked together before starting VJC
- Currently: Year 3 of VJC



Partner

Who can
you reach
out to?

Timeline & Objectives

Timeline

- 8-20 weeks, aligned with both calendars
- Can be across terms
- Time for synchronous session?

Objectives

- Why are you excited?
- Why will students be excited?
- Benefit of international VJC?



Timeline & Objectives

Our Timeline & Objectives

Timeline

- 11 weeks, Oct-Feb reading
- 4 weeks group projects, March
- 10am EST/ 4pm CET

Objectives

- Broader view of what economics is about
- Exposure to research frontier
- Range of perspectives; Virtual exchange



Timeline & Objectives

What range
of options
would work
for you?

Action Plan

- Asynchronous/ Synchronous?
- Assessments/ Grades?
- LMS – yours or mine, or LTI?
- Access to reading material?
- Student recruitment?
- TA support? Funding?
- Session structure?



Action Plan

Our Action Plan

- Asynchronous forum, synchronous 90min session
- LMU: Enrollment; York: Optional indept. study
- Moodle (hosted at York, guest accounts)
- Through Univ.-subscriptions; online libraries
- Recruitment through emails, announcements, ...
- 3 LMU TAs (DAAD funding)
- 15 min warm-up, 45 min break-out rooms, 25 min wrap-up



Action Plan

*Build on your
experience.
Enjoy.*

Adaptability

- Students: May know more/ less; Enjoy differently
- Colleagues: May have different expectations
- Colleagues/TAs: Different pedagogical approaches
- Opportunities: Guest speakers, online conferences
- Constraints: Finals/ midterms.



Adaptability

Our Adaptations

- Kept “share favorite ...” round after first week
- Shortened warm-up: More time for break-out discussions
- TA training: separate weekly meeting
- Participation in online conference (Dec)
- Guest speaker: conference organizer
- Wrap-up group project by LMU grading deadline



Adaptability

Gentle
learning
curve.
Easier the
second time.

Funding

- Not strictly needed
- Internal: University's International office
- Library support
- DAAD IVAC funding (Germany)
- Erasmus (?) (Europe)
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Thank you.

Questions? Comments?

Considering starting a VJC?

Contact: bkaren@yorku.ca