

Diverse Perspectives in Faculty-Led Study Abroad: South Africa Study Abroad with Peers Case Study

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Georgia State University

- Average Enrollment 51,000+
- 3,000+ international students with 170 countries represented
- Students from every state in the U.S.
- 7 campuses
- 72 Study Abroad Programs in 45 countries

| Gender | |
|--------|--------|
| Male | 39.60% |
| Female | 60.38% |

| Race | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| White | 31.79% |
| Black | 43.47% |
| Asian | 13.72% |
| American Indian/ Alaska Native | .33% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | .15% |
| Not Reported | 4.13% |
| 2 or More Races | 6.42% |

Group Demographics

| Race | |
|------------------------|----|
| White | 6 |
| Black/ African America | 14 |
| Asian | 1 |

| Ethnicity | |
|--------------|----|
| Non-Hispanic | 17 |
| Hispanic | 3 |
| Unknown | 1 |

| Sex | |
|--------|----|
| Male | 5 |
| Female | 16 |

| Age Range |
|-----------|
| 19-37 |

Academic Diversity

Class Standing

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Undergraduate | 11 |
| Master | 8 |
| Law | 1 |
| Doctoral | 1 |

Program of Study

| |
|------------------------------|
| Business Administration |
| Actuarial Science |
| Computer Information Systems |
| Educational Policy Studies |
| Film and Video |
| Finance |
| Inter Economics and Mod Lang |
| International Business |
| Law |
| Marketing |
| Political Science |
| Social Work |



The Economic and Business Environment in South Africa: A Study Abroad with Peers Program

- ▶ Courses: International Business & Economics (6 hours)
- ▶ Robinson College of Business & Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
- ▶ Cross listed Graduate and Undergraduate
- ▶ Varied project models
- ▶ Varied deliverables based on level



The Economic and Business Environment in South Africa: A Study Abroad with Peers Program

- ▶ Locations: Johannesburg, Pretoria, and Cape Town, South Africa
- ▶ Business visits, in-country peer interactions, cultural visits, individual research projects



Peer Interactions



Business Visits



Survey

- ▶ Experience with travel
- ▶ Challenging
- ▶ Rewarding
- ▶ Surprising
- ▶ Faculty Support
- ▶ Suggestions for improvement

- ▶ 7 responses
- ▶ 1 male & 6 female
- ▶ Age range 21-27
- ▶ 42.9% African American, 14.3% Hispanic, 42.9% White
- ▶ 57.1% Undergraduate, 42.9% Graduate
- ▶ 5 majors represented



Student Feedback

- ▶ Why did you choose the GSU South Africa Study Abroad with Peers Program?
 - ▶ “I chose this program because I could get Economics credit and I'm curious about developing economies. Also, I was curious about South Africa's civil rights movement and diversity.”
 - ▶ “My trip to China was canceled and it was the only trip available for that time frame.”

Student Feedback

- ▶ What was the most challenging aspect of your South Africa study abroad experience this past August?
 - ▶ “The most challenging part was being around around such a diverse group and adjusting to each person's personality.”
 - ▶ “The most challenging aspect was being so far away from home with people I barely knew. This was my first international trip!”

Student Feedback

- ▶ What was the most rewarding aspect of your South Africa study abroad experience this past August?
 - ▶ “Meeting all the wonderful people in the program as well as those from South Africa.”
 - ▶ “Getting to know all of the participants beyond surface level friendships and participating in their interests alongside them / having them participate in your interests as part of each other's research projects.”

Student Feedback

- ▶ What did you learn from another person that may have surprised you?
 - ▶ “Different life experiences and backgrounds of everyone.”
 - ▶ “That I had so many things in common with people I had never met before.”
 - ▶ “Usually I'm quite shy about expressing my obsession with musical theater, but come to find out, my roommate felt the EXACT same way! She and I formed incorrect first impressions of each other, and we turned to become great friends!”

Student Feedback

- ▶ How did the faculty/staff create an environment to help you learn and grow through this experience?
 - ▶ “They made themselves available at all times and were flexible according to each students educational interests. The staff allowed us to venture independent to research for our specific case study.”
 - ▶ “They were absolutely amazing! Very approachable, knowledgeable, open to suggestions.”

In Summary

- ▶ Individual research projects gave everyone an active voice.
- ▶ Interdisciplinary/mixed levels worked well because all were equally involved in one another's success... but it can't be forced.
 - ▶ Faculty did a good job of naturally encouraging/enforcing interdisciplinary and peer to peer learning,
- ▶ Moving from pure tourism → reciprocal participation opportunities.
- ▶ Highlighted importance of invested faculty willing to work to foster a high quality experience, not just an opportunity to travel for class credit.
- ▶ Pushed comfort zones in a variety of different ways, varying from person to person.
- ▶ The more well rounded a program is, the better it can serve the needs of each individual student.



