

Promoting Equity and Inclusion in Virtual Education Abroad Programs



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Agenda



- Value of Education Abroad
- Access to Education Abroad
- Virtual Education Abroad
- Framework for Equity and Inclusion
- Example Virtual Experience

Value of Education Abroad

- **Develop intercultural skills**
 - Employers report this as one of the greatest skill gaps for recent graduates (Finley, 2021; NACE, 2021).
- **Connect theory to practice**
 - Apply global skills in a real-world context.
- **Boost hiring potential**
 - Employers report an international experience as a distinguishing characteristic when reviewing resumes (Finley, 2021).





Access to Education Abroad

- **Demographics of traditional EA participants** (IIE, 2021)
 - most are undergraduate 1-2 semester programs
 - 70% white
 - 54% use personal/family funding sources
 - <21% are of racial or ethnic minorities
- **Demographics of online adult learners** (Clinefelter et al., 2019)
 - 60% female
 - 43% between ages 25 to 39
 - most work full-time

Most current study abroad options do not speak to the non-traditional, first-generation, or racially and economically diverse student body that makes up the online student.

Virtual Education Abroad

- Collaborative Online International Learning (COILs)
- Virtual exchanges with international university partners
- Service Learning opportunities
- Interdisciplinary institutional collaboration
- Global virtual internships
- **Faculty-curated global itineraries**





Framework for Equity & Inclusion

Advocacy

- Create processes to encourage students and faculty to embrace Education Abroad opportunities.

Academic quality

- Provide a rigorous curriculum through experiential and applied learning opportunities.

Accessibility

- Provide opportunities to everyone, regardless of physical mobility.

Affordability

- Provide opportunities that are cost-effective and aid-eligible (where possible).



Example Virtual Experience

Created combined Virtual and Travel Field Experiences

- delivered as a 1-credit hour elective at undergraduate and graduate levels
- embedded **AFS Global Competence Certificate (GCC) program** to guide participants through intercultural skill development in three phases: preparation, immersion, and reflection
- Faculty-curated experiences “menu” format
 - Managed through a dedicated website
 - **Asynchronous events**- pre-recorded content, virtual tours, and lectures
 - **Synchronous events** - live mobile tours, live lectures and demonstrations, ‘sync ups’ with travel participants



Asynchronous Events

- **Industry Engagement: Sustainability & Ethics Tour**

[Access here](#)

password: [REDACTED]

Along with our guide, a Member of Parliament and senior leader within the Green Party, we will view and discuss the sustainable credentials of hidden gems and well-known landmarks of London. We will visit one of the city's first ethical business hubs, learn why London is seen as a world leader in green transport, and explore exciting new green developments and eco-conscious retrofitting.

- **Cultural Engagement: *Hamlet* at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre**

[Access here](#) (select 'log in to watch' on right of screen)

log in: [REDACTED]

password: [REDACTED]

Enjoy a modern interpretation of *Hamlet* at Shakespeare's own Globe Theatre. Before the show, take a [virtual tour](#) of the Globe Theatre.

- **Icon Alert!** Make a virtual visit through these iconic locations from British culture and history.

- **Buckingham Palace**

Check out the most visited spot in London and home of Queen Elizabeth.

- **Changing of the Guards Virtual Walk**

Someone has to look after the Queen! Watch on as the Guard hands over between watches.



Synchronous Events

LIVE: TUESDAY, MARCH 22

■ Cultural Engagement: City of London Highlights and Hidden Gems

Time: 11:00am - 12:00pm ET

This live, interactive tour begins in Smithfields, where we will virtually visit the oldest parish church and the oldest hospital in London before eyeing the spot where the famous fictional detective Sherlock Holmes fell to his "end". The Great Fire of London, which raged through the city in the year 1666, played an important role in the shape the city has grown to take in the years since. During the tour, we will also see the street corner where this fire ended. Then, I will take you through a former notorious prison that today functions as the most well-known court in the land: the Old Bailey Central Criminal Court. We will stop at St Paul's Cathedral before heading to the Millennium Bridge to appreciate some "monumental" views of the London skyline over the River Thames.

LIVE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

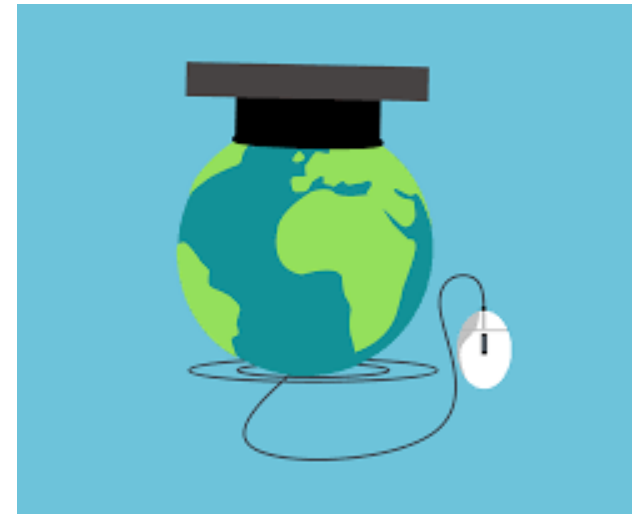
■ Cultural Engagement: History and Culture of Tea in Britain

Time: 12:00 - 1:00pm ET

Our guide, an English tech entrepreneur who has lived all over the world, will take us on a global journey to understand the origin, impact, and cultural significance of the tea trade in the UK. He will demonstrate how to prepare the perfect tea while sharing his experiences as a businessperson in both the UK and other countries. Settle in for a 'cuppa' (that's Brit-speak for 'cup of tea') while learning about the cultural importance of tea in the UK.

Implications

- address employer-identified intercultural skill gaps
- create sources of competitive advantage for graduates
- increase accessibility for all students
- offer cost-effective programming
- provide a life-changing experience





References

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Further Reading

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Questions?



Thank you for attending!