

**STUDENT/DEPARTMENT DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:
INTEGRATING INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL INTO CURRICULUM**

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The Information Technology and Administrative Management Department at Central Washington University has been leading study abroad trips to Central Europe since 2001 – a total of 8 times. On this trip, students engage with faculty, business owners, and students throughout Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, and Austria to learn business practices. Students engage in cultural activities to develop an appreciation of other cultures, languages, and national histories.

Beginning in Summer 2017, ITAM will also offer a study abroad trip to Peru. On this trip, students will be completing a service-learning project, bringing technology to 2 rural schools in Peru, and a trek through the Andes.

Topics that we can cover in this Special Session include: accommodations, alcohol/drugs, student conduct, crisis management, international insurance, health and wellness, mental health, diversity/discrimination, transportation, sexual harassment, communication, and orientations.

Rational: “Young people who study abroad gain the global skills necessary to create solutions to 21st century challenges,” said Ann Stock, assistant secretary of State (USA Today, 2011).

As our organizations and institutions become more multicultural and diverse, as technology allows us instant access to challenges and opportunities around the world, and as our curriculum becomes increasingly international, our students want (and faculty want for them) to experience these differences and similarities first-hand. For students who are able to experience university-level international experiences, “the significance of the situation is that the[se] future leaders in business, politics, art, and culture will have had experience understanding others who think and believe in different ways; they will have had opportunities to understand what it means to be the “outsider,” and how to communicate effectively across barriers of all kinds,” (Higher Ed Jobs, n.d.).

According to Rick Steves, “American college students understand the value of study abroad. Four out of every five first-year students [aspire to study overseas](#). But at any given time, only about 2% of students are able to,” (USA Today, 2012).

Through this Special Session, we hope to inspire other faculty to either lead study abroad trips for their schools or collaborate on our already-developed faculty-led study abroad trip to Central Europe and Peru.

Format:

The panel will discuss best practices we have learned over the course of 15 years: what to do, what not to do, when to do, when not to do, when to control, and when not to control. Audience members who have led study abroad trips can add in their experiences; faculty who have not led study abroad trips will have time for questions and answers.

References

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