

Drawing the Battle Lines: The Future of Study Abroad in Europe

Karl Dowling – Big Pond Education, Ireland (Chair/Moderator)

Mark Blakemore – Big Pond Education, UK

Karen McBride – Bound International, USA.

Antonio Vanni – AEF: Accademia Europea di Firenze, Italy

We will return from the break
in a few minutes.

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bigpond



Mark Blakemore

Co-Founder / Chief
Partnerships Officer

Big Pond Education

INTERNATIONAL
BOUND
TRAVEL. THE EARTH. TOGETHER.



Karen McBride

President & Founder

Bound International



ACCADEMIA
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DI FIRENZE



Antonio Vanni

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EU
ASA



Drawing the Battle Lines: The Future of Study Abroad in Europe

**"Setting universities apart: The case for civic
engagement in study abroad"**

- Mark Blakemore, Big Pond Education

The battle for defining the benefits of study abroad?



"The learning isn't as well defined and ... articulated in the design as it could"

Is Study

Negative (Should)

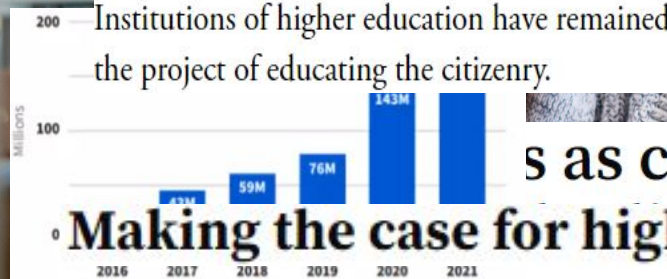
Can colleges find ways to reset climbing admin. costs?

Delivery of student accommodation surges as housing crisis rumbles on

Higher education sector in flux - with its value being questioned

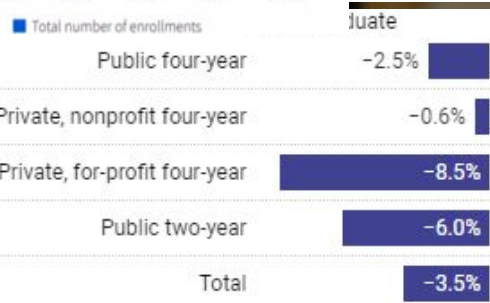
Universities Are Shunning Their Responsibility to Democracy

Institutions of higher education have remained, at best, bit players in the project of educating the citizenry.



s as college leaders

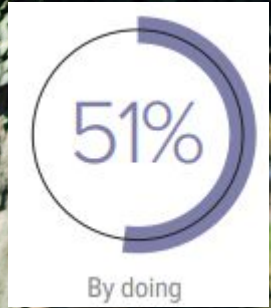
Making the case for higher education



Working in the context of 'Generation We'

College should be:

- A means to an end – skills and networking are most important
- An active learning environment
- Socially responsible
- A training ground for changing the world
- Flexible – remote and in-person should feature
- Collaborative: "Generation We"
- Mental health
- Skipped?



72% of Gen Z look to study outcomes over rankings

75% say a college's environmental commitment **would** affect their decision



The climate crisis should be pushing colleges and universities to do more to be sustainable, experts say. Student recruitment depends on it.

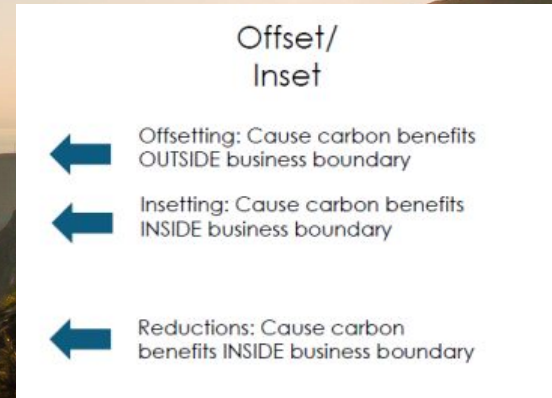
Looking at the evolving university learning environment

- **High Impact Practices: a model based on human skills development**
- **Expansion of co-curricular activities**
- **Ongoing shift to work experience while studying (internships)**
- **Deepening support services and accommodations**
- **Need to demonstrate environmental / social credentials**



Adding value to the home campus # 1

- ~~Do justly, identify and highlight~~
provision of environmental
credentials *beyond*
offsetting

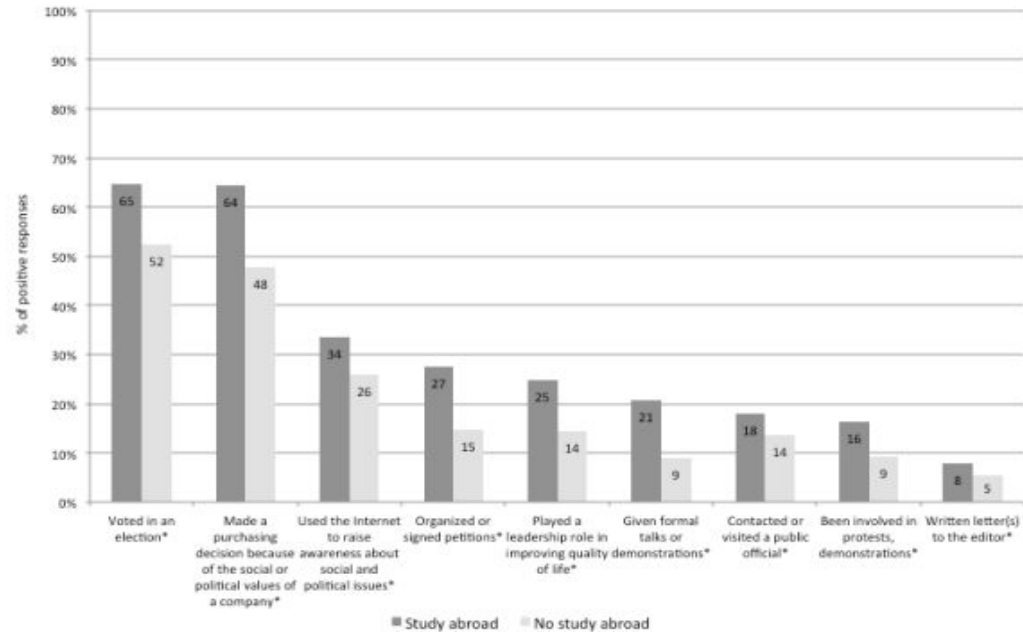


Universities Are Shunning Their Responsibility to Democracy

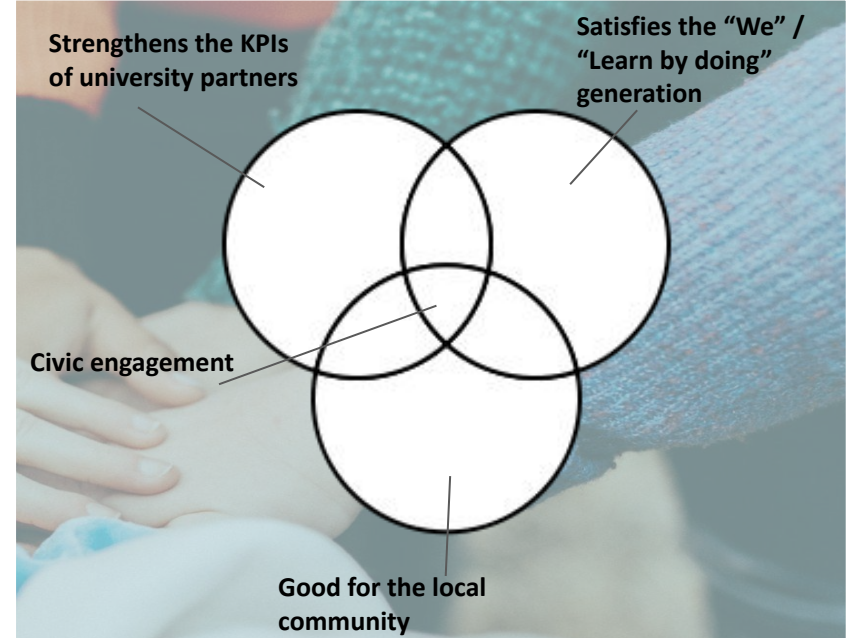
Institutions of higher education have remained, at best, bit players in the project of educating the citizenry.

Adding value
to the home
campus # 2

Figure 1. Civic Engagement: Issues of International Importance



Setting universities apart through civic engagement





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*Setting universities apart
through education abroad*

- mark@bigpondeducation.org

EU
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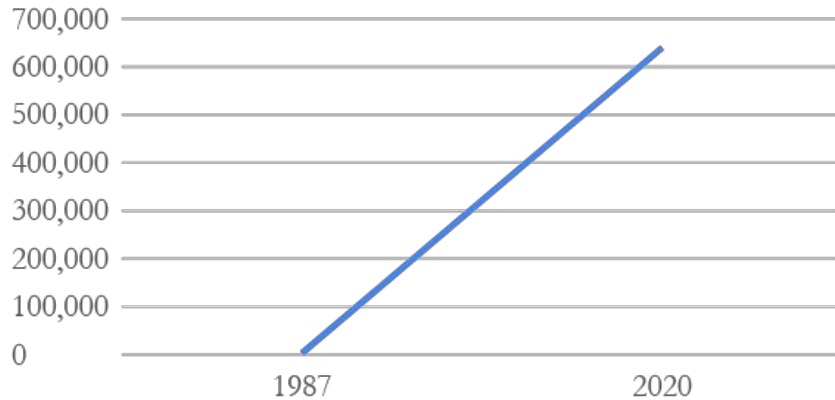
“The case for virtual exchange in international education”

- Karen McBride, Bound International

Historical Context

Pre-COVID education abroad participation

ERASMUS Student Enrollment

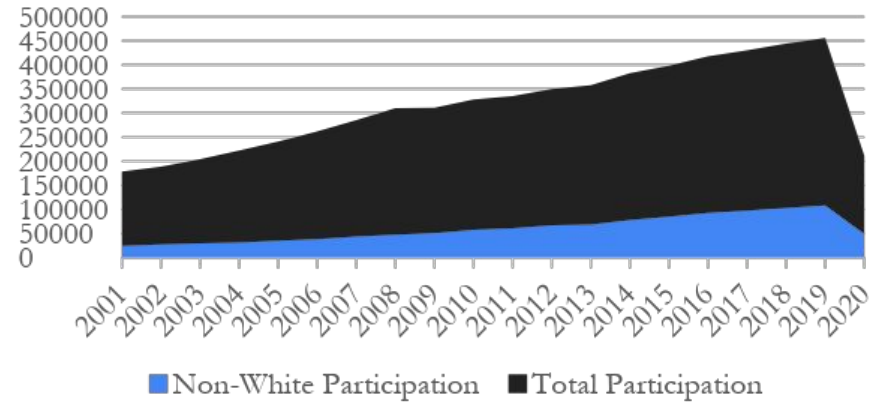


*European Commission

3.5% of EU student body

Diversity in education abroad

U.S. Study Abroad



*Institute for International Education

1.7% of U.S. student body

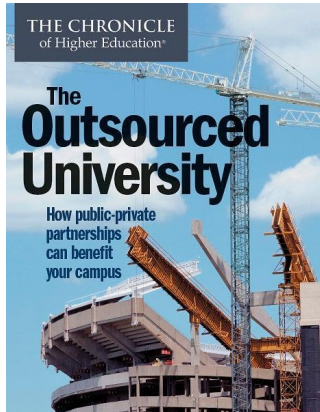


The United States, United Kingdom, China,
France, and Australia

Two-thirds



Previous Disruptions



We know how to adapt...



Biden Walks Line Between ‘New Normal’ and Conceding Defeat on Coronavirus

Contemporary Context

- **Millenials (born, 1981-96)**
 - Came of age during Internet era
 - (Current) and future teachers
- **Generation Z (born, 1997-2012)**
 - Digital Natives
 - Current university students
- **Generation Alpha (born, 2013-)**
 - Digital Natives 2.0
 - Future university students

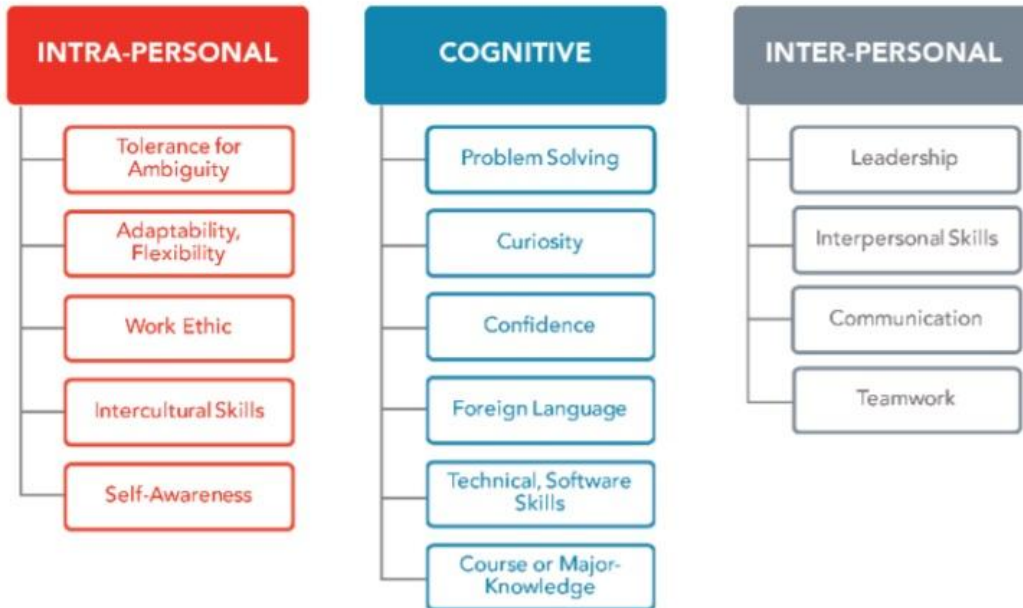


#News

Despite Positive Experiences, Students Question Value of College

Survey finds students support their institutions and mostly plan to re-enroll -- but increasingly doubt whether education is worth the price.

Outcomes & Assessment



- Continuous Learning (Self-Awareness, Exploration)
- Interpersonal Engagement (World Orientation, Relationship Development)
- Hardiness (Positive Regard, Emotional Resilience)

Gateway International, University of Virginia, Bound International results (2021)

- Social Connections, Peer Engagement, Different Cultures

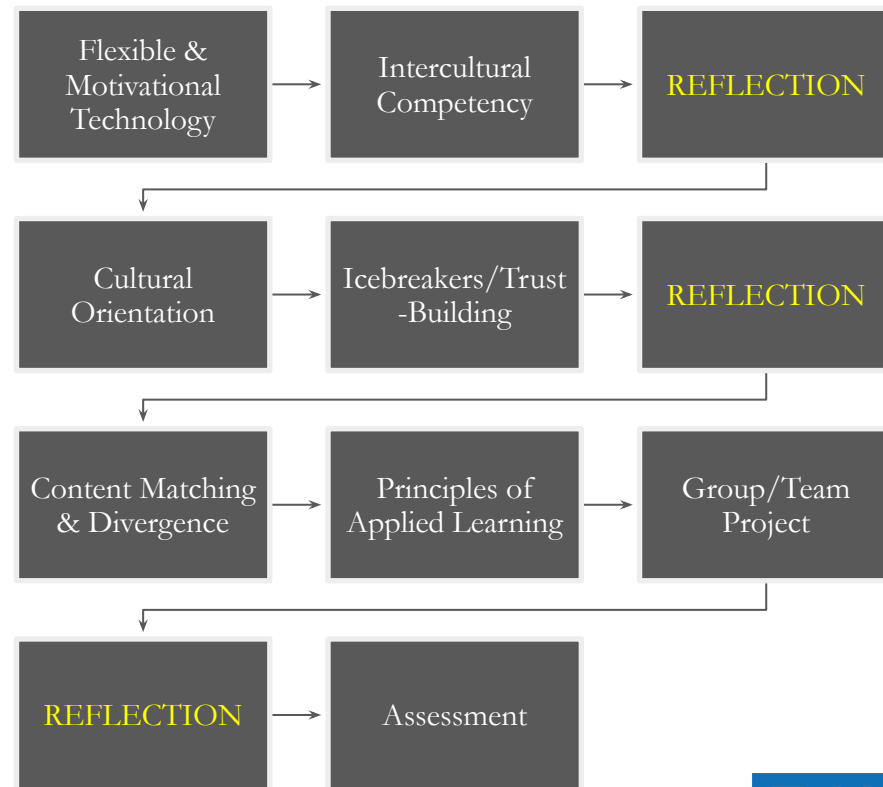
Soliya Connect Program results (2021)

- Meaningful cross-cultural engagement enhanced

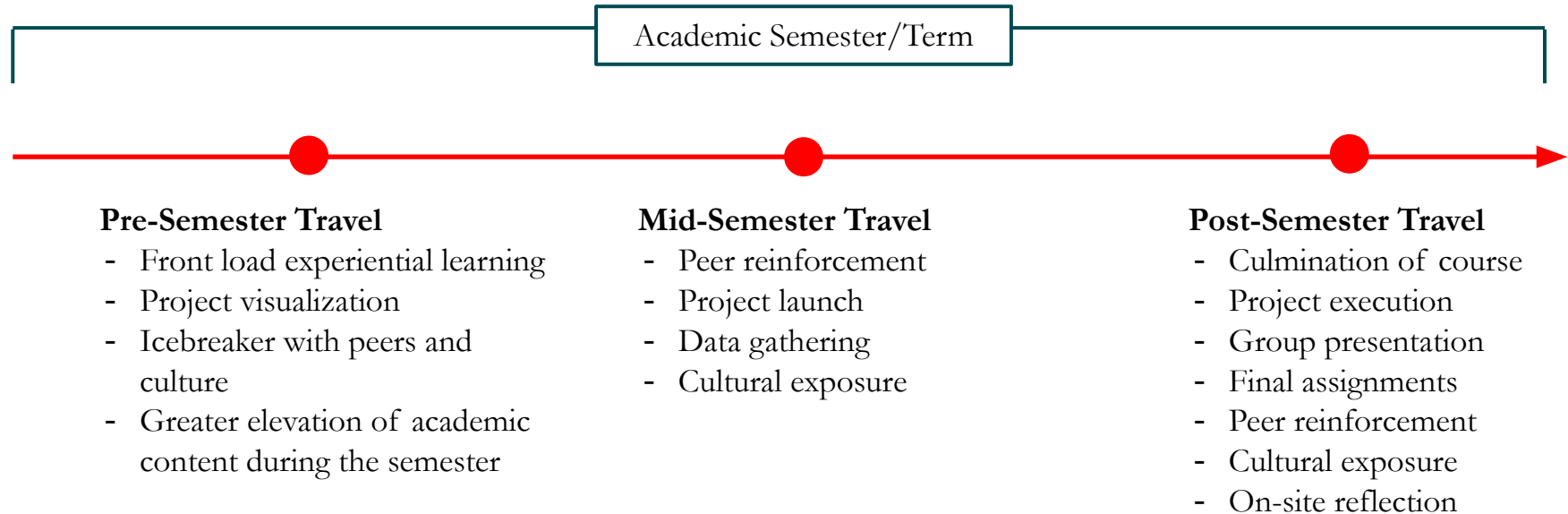


Designing the Experience

COIL Methodology



Integrated Travel Options



Resources



Campus & General

1. Information (Communication) Technology Offices
2. Faculty Development Offices/Fund
3. International Affairs Office
4. Technology Rush
5. Instructional Design Profession
6. WiFi & Cellular Access
7. Social Media

Programs & Organizations

- Digital ERASMUS+
- Digital Education Action Plan
- Digital Opportunity Traineeships
- Stevens Initiative (U.S.-Middle East)
- IDEAS Grant (U.S.-World)
- American Council on Education VE/COIL Lab (U.S.-World)
- SUNY-COIL Center (U.S.-World)
- International Virtual Exchange Conference

In Summary...

- Focus on Student Learning Outcomes
- Implement Intentional Design
- Continual Analysis + Evolution
- Tiered or marginalized programs only become so if we allow it



Travel. The Earth. Together.


- karen@bound-intl.com





Drawing the Battle Lines: The Future of Study Abroad in Europe “Dancing with Florence, 2022: A Choreography Lab on Citizenship”

- Antonio Vanni, AEF: Accademia Europea Di Firenze



**The Future of
Study Abroad in
Europe:
Issues we must
address**

Student Mobility: exclusive
privilege

Study Abroad: Benefits
Assumed

Disconnection from the
context and the host
community

Opportunities: Engaging Students as Partners

Fostering meaningful experiences:

- Focus on specific themes - i.e.: *Citizenship*
- Students / performers as co-authors of the experience
- Faculty and staff as mentors and collaborators
- Shared values between students, sending and host communities.

Dancing with Florence #1: The City of Flowers (2019)

Location: Rose Garden, Florence

Protagonists

16 Elon University Dance students

Lauren Kearns, Dancer / Choreographer

Italian Dance professionals

Project

Rehearsal and performance of a site specific piece.

Goals

Engagement with site specific work

Empowerment of students as performers

Research on the context

Dialogue with public and local stakeholders

Debrief and video presentation at Elon campus



Dancing with Florence #2: Children of the City (2022)

Location: Istituto degli Innocenti, Florence

Protagonists

20 Elon University Dance students

Lauren Kearns, Dancer / Choreographer

Italian Dance professionals

Project

Creation of original site specific pieces by students on the theme of Citizenship

Goals

Empower students as authors and performers

Engage them with unique cultural heritage

Prompt reflections after the experience

Presentation back on Campus



Looking Ahead



Intentional Program Design.

Definition of clear program learning outcomes is key for the future of Higher Education Internationalization (De Wit et al., 2015)

Curriculum Integration (Leask, 2020), focus on transferrable skills

As study abroad offers exclusive opportunities to the privileged mobile students, programs should focus on skills that can be shared and transferred back to the home campus, for the benefit and inclusion of all students and society



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Italian language, Culture and Arts in Florence

- Antonio.Vanni@aefirenze.it



EUASA
European Association of Study Abroad

**European Study
Abroad Conference**
February 10 & 11, 2022

Questions?

