



## **Study Abroad and International Missions Team Charter**

**Senior Leader Contact:** Todd Lake

**Timeline:** September 1 – November 30, 2016

**Facilitators:** Joe Alexander, Associate Dean & Senior Professor of Performance Excellence, College of Business; Heather Daugherty, University Minister

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Student

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Helping Belmont students become members of the larger world is an essential component of Belmont's mission – it is hard to “engage and transform the world” without being connected to it. For the past several years, the campus has been significantly more committed to bringing the world to Belmont and to sending our students out into the world to learn and grow. While study abroad and international missions should, and does, focus on international opportunities away from campus, we also need to think about the long term impact of our students' international experiences on the lives of those who are visited and those who go. How do we create sustainable long-term initiatives that are life changing for our students?

### **Project Objectives:**

- Research current opportunities for study abroad and international missions in each college and area of study. How can we highlight our successes and find new ways to engage our campus community in conversations about study abroad and international missions?
- Identify additional opportunities for study abroad and international missions across campus.

- Provide a recommendation to Senior Leadership that includes steps required over the next six months to implement a model that encourages students of all programs to take part in a study abroad or international missions opportunity and that promotes long-term impact.

## **Study Abroad and International Missions Notes: June Summit and August Board Meetings**

### **Study Abroad and International Missions (JUNE)**

TABLE 12

- Center of Global Engagement
- Short term faculty—50 programs
- Moving towards semester or year long
- International internships
- Marketing campaign to build more growth for semester or year long
- Massey—Graduate: require study abroad
- Undergraduate International Business: require study abroad
- Fund veterans to complete Study Abroad (230 veterans or dependents)
  - Yellow Ribbon benefit doesn't fund Study Abroad fee
    - Fees range from \$4000-\$6500
    - If it were a requirement, Yellow Ribbon would fund it
- Require International Study Abroad for ALL students to experience diversity and cultures
- Donor offers opportunity for Belmont student or alumni to travel for up to 6 weeks—LUMOS
- Belmont funds Yellow Ribbon benefit to the max amount
- Additional individual in Study Abroad
- All Study Abroad or International travel go through the Study Abroad Office
- Logistics for all travel plans
- Emergency Contact Information

TABLE 1

- More hybrid mission/academic trips with faculty and staff to show value in the trips
  - As number of trips increase, can we allow staff to go in addition to faculty?
- Longer term experiences that are faculty led fall/spring semester
- More convocation opportunities while abroad
- Study abroad experience for every student part of every curriculum (option)
- Ask students “what problem do you want to solve?” not “what is your major?”
  - Every program of study has clearly defined core competencies per program
  - Make more interdisciplinary, more problem centered
- All faculty led trips have an element of faith
  - Teach faculty how to demonstrate faith in ways they are comfortable with
  - Train faculty how to integrate faith into the curriculum
- Create an Interdisciplinary Center of Global Engagement and Missions
- Preplanned convocation opportunities, core competencies while students are there

- Market it!
- International communities in the US
- Three legged stool → Haiti, Cambodia, Guana
  - Work with University Ministries
  - International justice missions and academic are the same
- Recruit international admissions while on study abroad
  
- Berlin: Google's education evangelist
- Grow Study Abroad to 1000 by 2020
- What about spiritual development as part of study abroad?
  - Can we add mission/service projects to SA trips
  - Some have this, not all—opportunities for faculty development
- How can we ensure that all students have an opportunity to study abroad?
  - Staff participation
- Capitalize on NGO partners: World Vision, International Justice Mission, Souls for Soles
- Funding: allowing trips to be integrated into the tuition/curriculum
  - Can we do something similar to what Massey does with undergrads?
  - Follow Belmont East/West model

TABLE 14

Future concern: parents' fears about their children traveling abroad

*How do we build upon the success of 2016 for study abroad participation?*

- Invite each program to imagine how their majors can fit study abroad into study—both short-term and long-term trips
- Think of new ways to promote study abroad: you can fit it in!
- More involvement with parents
- Have advisors discuss study abroad with advisees
- Be sure to pay attention to transfer issues

*How can we incorporate faith development in the variety of trips we offer?*

- Many students choose a mission trip instead of study abroad—how can we incorporate missions into study abroad: mission trip extension, pilgrimages, e.g. nursing trips to Cambodia
- How can students experience faith in other cultures on study abroad?
- Help train faculty to do faith development while spending so much time with students (e.g. devotionals)

### **Study Abroad and International Missions (BOARD)**

#### **Mission and Study Abroad Lengths**

- Spring: 3 credits
  - Discipline specific
- Summer: 3-6 weeks/6-12 credits
- Maymester (most popular): 10-20 days, 3-9 credits
  - \$2500-\$6000
- Semester/Yearlong (much smaller #s of students)
- LUMOS (non-credit)
- Missions: credit (Student Affairs office)//non-credit (colleges)
  - Credit hours compensate for cost of the trips=incentivize trips
  - 1/3 cost per credit of on-campus classes
  - e.g. Haiti trip up to 12 credits; partner with a Christian organization

#### How do we make Study Abroad and Missions uniquely Belmont?

- Change lives of those who are visited and those who go
  - \*Partner with area churches and Christian organizations
- How do we make a long-term impact?
- How significant an event can it be made in a student's life?
- 1-3 years after trip is student still engaged in change?
  - Make a difference and stay engaged
  - A cause verses an event
- Require study abroad and international missions?
- Educate parents and campus on how affordable?
  - Give more financial aid (e.g. Wright Fund)
- Assess school by school to see # of opportunities
- Create easy way to learn of all trips
- Build on trips by going back (e.g. to Haiti, Fc. Africa, Guatemala, etc)
- *When Helping Hurts*: book to help all students understand how to have a long-term impact)
- Many service with missions to long-term commitment to certain communities
  - partner with right orgs