International Research Group (IRG) Membership

- Arlene Kent-Wilkinson, RN, CPMHN(C), BSN, MN, PhD (Saskatoon)
- Ebin Arries, RN, B.Cur, M.Cur, M.Phil (Ethics), PhD (Prince Albert)
- Janet Luimes, RN(NP), MScN (Saskatoon)
- Gingi Sheppard, (ISSAC) (Saskatoon)
- Heather Exner-Pirot, BA, MA, PhD (Saskatoon)
- Katherine Ash, BA (Soc), BSN, MN, PhD(c) (Saskatoon)
- Lee Murray, BSN, MN, PhD (Saskatoon)
- Linda Ferguson, RN, BSN, PGD (Cont Ed.), MN, PhD (Saskatoon)
- Lynn Jansen, BSN, MN, PhD (Regina)
- Marie Dietrich-Leurer, RN, BSN, MBA, PhD (Regina)
- Pammla Petrucka, RN, BScN, MN, PhD (Regina)
- Robin Thurmeier, (Research Facilitator) (Regina)
- Trudy Unger, BA, CACE (Saskatoon)
- Additional new members in 2014
University of Saskatchewan (since 1907)
University of Saskatchewan

Memorial Gates
University of Saskatchewan
Academic Health Science Building
E-Wing 2013 (College of Nursing)

College of Nursing (since 1938)
College of Nursing

Saskatchewan
1,057,884

University of Saskatchewan
25 thousand students

College of Nursing
1058 Nursing students at 6 sites
Overview
- History of Study Abroad at the College of Nursing, U of S
- Benefits of Study Abroad for Nursing Students (Literature)

Student Study Abroad Survey
- Need for the Study
- Purpose of the Study
  - Why some students apply to study abroad while others do not?
- Approach/Methodology (Online survey – Campus Lab)
- Participants (Student sample) & Response rate
- Findings: Interest in Study Abroad - Barriers to Applying
- Limitations
- Conclusion
Current International Placements
2003-2013

Australia

Philippines

Finland

Tanzania
Current Study Abroad Placements 2003-2013

**Philippines**
Quezon City, Philippines
2009-Current

**Australia**
Adelaide, Australia
2008-Current

**Finland**
Helsinki, Finland
2003-Current

**Tanzania**
Arusha, Tanzania
2012-Current
# Current International Placements 2002-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>Finland</th>
<th>Philippines</th>
<th>Tanzania</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Incoming</td>
<td>Outgoing</td>
<td>Incoming</td>
<td>Outgoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2003</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2005</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
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<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2013-2014
Findings of Collected Study Abroad Statistics

- 15 years of Collected Statistics of numbers of students incoming and outgoing from the different countries
- 1998-2014

Outgoing # of Nursing Students = 276
Incoming # of Nursing Students = 38

- Reasons why not all partnership are reciprocal?

Approximately 10% of students who could apply - apply to go abroad each year
  - applications in 3rd or 2nd year
  - approx. 300 students have the opportunity to apply
Benefits of Study Abroad

Benefits to Nursing Students
(Purported by the student journals and in the literature)

- Personal growth and development
- Professional growth in critical thinking and leadership
- Opportunity for growth in cultural competence/safety
- Cultural differences/similarities in health delivery and nursing practices
- Experience first hand Issues of health and social inequities
- Broader understanding of social determinants of health


- Broader understanding of WHO Millennial Development Goals in both local and global contexts (WHO, 2000), all factors that also impact on Canadian populations
International Study Abroad Background

History of Study Abroad History at the College of Nursing.

- For over fifteen years, study abroad clinical placements have been available in a variety of developed and emerging countries for undergraduate students at the College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan.
- Evident that there was a wealth of research waiting to be tapped, as evidenced through the rich data of the student journals and communication with the host countries.

Statistics on Incoming and Outgoing Research

- Collection of the statistics each year of the numbers of students, inbound and outbound to the different countries, and the odd individual article published.
Reasons for forming as a Research Group?

Background

- Questions existed about...
  - a) Characteristics of those students who choose to participate in international clinical placements (and those who do not!).
  - b) The outcomes for those students who do participate in international experiences.
  - c) Barriers for those who do not participate.
  - d) Impact on future nursing practice.

- Collectively, a group of faculty and staff from the College of Nursing with an interest in International research may be able to be successful in not only conducting some research, but also in publishing more papers on this topic.

- Lack of funding necessitates working together

- Formation of International Research Group January, 2013
First Project – Student Study Abroad Survey

Methods/Methodology:

Title
Explore students’ perspectives related to international learning experiences to determine factors influencing their decisions to participate.

Approach
- Online survey tool
- Longitudinal Study
# Study Abroad Student Survey

## Project Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIMELINE OF SURVEY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April, 2013</td>
<td>Development of Question for Online Survey tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May, 2013</td>
<td>REB applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 10, 2013</td>
<td>Online editing of REB applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 11, 2013</td>
<td>Application sent to C of N Research Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 4, 2013</td>
<td>BEH#13-225 Study Abroad Student Survey (Program Eval – exempt)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 3, 2013</td>
<td>Letter of approval from the College of Nursing Research Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 10, 2013</td>
<td>Online survey sent out to 1058 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 24, 2013</td>
<td>Online survey reminders sent to students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 2013</td>
<td>Draw for incentive winners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2015</td>
<td>Repeat survey to students in 1st year of all programs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The objectives of our Study Abroad Survey were to:

1) Explore from the student perspective the learning needs of students with regard to study abroad placements?

2) Determine why some students decide to apply for a study abroad experience and others do not?

3) Ascertain if our current study abroad nursing program is a fit with the College of Nursing IP3.
Study Abroad Student Survey

The research questions of our Study Abroad Survey were:

1) Is our study abroad nursing program meeting the needs of our Students?
2) Why some students decide to apply for a study abroad experience and others do not?
3) Is our current study abroad program a fit with the College of Nursing IP3?
3rd Integrated Plan - College of Nursing

**IP3 College of Nursing:**
Evaluative research of our study abroad program will help to determine if our program is a fit with the focus of IP3:

1. Experiential learning (For nursing it is a Clinical placement study abroad opportunities);
2. Aboriginal engagements (Do we offer Aboriginal/Indigenous engagements abroad?);
3. Local Global is a College of Nursing focus; and
4. Student Funding
Study Abroad Student Survey

Research Target Groups & Sample Size:
All College of Nursing students: **1058** students
- All sites, all programs, in all years

Initial Survey in 2013:
- BSN 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 3\textsuperscript{rd} 4\textsuperscript{th} years
- PBSN 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2\textsuperscript{nd} years
- NEPS 4\textsuperscript{th} year
- Graduate Students (Master and PhD) (Approx. 87 students)

Subsequent Annual Surveys
- First year only of each program
Study Abroad Student Survey

Ethical Considerations:

1) University of Saskatchewan Research Ethics Board
   • Certificate of Approval
2) College of Nursing Research Committee
   • Operational ethical approval

Discussion whether the study should be classified a program evaluation and be exempt as per Article 2.5 of the Tri Council Policy statement (2010) which states "Quality assurance and quality improvement studies, program evaluation activities, and performance reviews, or testing within normal educational requirements when used exclusively for assessment, management or improvement purposes, do not constitute research for the purposes of this Policy, and do not fall within the scope of REB review."
Study Abroad Student Survey

Consent

- Consent was inferred by the submission of a completed survey.
- Information on students’ rights to participate was provided on the invitation letter sent to the student’s email addresses.

Methods/Procedures

- Data collection will occur via an online survey.
- The survey will be open for approximately 3 weeks.
- In addition to the initial email, students will be sent 2 reminders via email.
- A reminder email was sent only to the non-respondents.
- Survey completion is estimated at no more than 15 minutes.
- Researchers will have access to the survey data in real-time.
- Data collected through a secure, password-protected reporting site.
- Data encryption and other measures will ensure the security of the data.
- All data will be compiled in aggregate and no individual respondents will be identified.
- Data will be available through the online reporting site for an indefinite amount of time.
- Data will be analyzed using quantitative methodologies.

Storage of Data

- All Profile data will be stored on the Campus Labs reporting site.
- Data is only accessible through a unique username and password.
- Various security measures at the application, network, and physical level.
Study Abroad Student Survey

Dissemination of Results

- Results of this study will be used in aggregate form.
- The data will be used to inform the College of Nursing about students’ perceptions of the Study Abroad Program.
- The findings of the Survey will help to determine how to further develop the Study Abroad program.
- Additionally, the aggregate data may be used in presentations internally, as well as in presentations externally in conferences, or in articles for related journals.

Risk, Benefits, and Deception

- Participants will not be exposed to harm, discomforts, or perceived harm.
- While survey research presents minimal risks, students may be uncomfortable answering some of the questions.
- Participation is voluntary.
- Students may opt to quit the survey at any point.
- No deception is involved in this study.

Confidentiality

- No individual response to the survey will ever be identified in any report.
- Rather, all resulting data will be reported in the aggregate.
Q1a: Are you aware there are undergraduate opportunities to Study Abroad at the U of S College of Nursing?
Q1b. If yes, how did you become aware of the College of Nursing Study Abroad Student Placements?

- Attended an Information session
- Heard about it from another student
- Heard about it from an Instructor
- Saw link to Study Abroad webpage on the C of N website
- Other*
Q1c. If you are a graduate student, does international research/clinical practice experience interest you?

- Yes: 81%
- No: 3%
- Not a Graduate Student: 16%
Q2. What is your travel experience (Check all that apply)

- I have traveled within Saskatchewan 45% (58)
- I have traveled outside Saskatchewan but within Canada 49% (63)
- I have traveled in the US 48% (61)
- I have traveled outside Canada and the US 73% (94)

- 24% had not traveled outside the US & Canada-
- 4% had not traveled outside of the province
Q3. What statement best expresses your current interest in having an academic experience abroad?
Q4. What do you feel would prevent you from studying abroad? (select your top 3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of funds</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>(91)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Responsibilities</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>(38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Obligations</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>(29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Fluent in the Language</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>(26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship Obligations</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>(24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Process too difficult</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>(21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Concerns</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>(15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Instability in Desired Country</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>(14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other *</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>(8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Parental Support</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>(6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends would not Accompany</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Interested</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>(4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q5. If you had the opportunity to study abroad, what best describes your views

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very Beneficial</th>
<th>Beneficial</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Somewhat Beneficial</th>
<th>Not Beneficial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gain international nursing experience</td>
<td>77.17%</td>
<td>18.90%</td>
<td></td>
<td>.79%</td>
<td>.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn about a different culture</td>
<td>70.87%</td>
<td>25.98%</td>
<td>1.57%</td>
<td>1.57%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain self-awareness and independence</td>
<td>62.99%</td>
<td>29.92%</td>
<td>3.94%</td>
<td>3.94%</td>
<td>1.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase competency in nursing skills</td>
<td>59.84%</td>
<td>31.50%</td>
<td>5.51%</td>
<td>2.36%</td>
<td>0.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International research opportunities and/or clinical experience</td>
<td>54.33%</td>
<td>29.92%</td>
<td>12.60%</td>
<td>1.57%</td>
<td>1.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrate social responsibility</td>
<td>45.67%</td>
<td>41.73%</td>
<td>9.45%</td>
<td>1.57%</td>
<td>1.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future employment opportunities</td>
<td>43.31%</td>
<td>34.65%</td>
<td>13.39%</td>
<td>4.72%</td>
<td>3.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulfill academic requirements</td>
<td>39.37%</td>
<td>45.67%</td>
<td>11.81%</td>
<td>1.57%</td>
<td>1.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn a new language</td>
<td>26.77%</td>
<td>40.16%</td>
<td>18.90%</td>
<td>11.02%</td>
<td>3.15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q6. If you were to study abroad, what would be the preferred length of time?

- 4 weeks or less (15%)
- 6 weeks (48%)
- 12 weeks (36%)
- Other (9%)
Q7. If you have already studied abroad or went abroad during any year of your nursing program as a volunteer (i.e., humanitarian/church project) please indicate the following:

When (Date):
- 2005-2013

Where (Country):
- Australia (2008, 2011); Mozambique (2011, 2012); Dominican Republic (2012);
- Rwanda (2013); Uganda (2005)

What (Project):
- Light the Night Campaign; Church Project, Mission Work, Volunteer

Why (Reason/Benefit):
- Community Health Final practicum

Who (Organization):
- Youth With A Mission, Church Groups, C of N, U of S

Participation in an international conference:
- None
Q8. If you were to study abroad (or study abroad again), in what area are you most interested in studying? (Check all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia/New Zealand</td>
<td>87 (69%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Europe</td>
<td>82 (65%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>76 (60%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>73 (57%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Europe</td>
<td>68 (54%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td>66 (52%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central America</td>
<td>50 (39%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>46 (36%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>36 (28%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (India, Fiji, Afghanistan)</td>
<td>3 (2%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q8. Where in Asia? (cont.)

- 5 (10.87%) India
- 4 (8.70%) Middle East
- 8 (17.39%) East Asia (China, Japan, Korea)
- 23 (50.00%) South East Asia (Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia)
- 2 (4.35%) Russia
- 4 (8.70%) Other
Q9. Currently, the College of Nursing offers the following (international) study abroad opportunities. In which of these are you most interested?

- Developed Countries
- Underdeveloped Countries
- None of the Above
Q10. Which of the following would interest you as a (local) provincial clinical experience?

- None of the Above: 5.51% (7 respondents)
- Community: 16.54% (21 respondents)
- Inner City: 25.98% (33 respondents)
- Remote: 2.36% (3 respondents)
- Rural: 29.92% (38 respondents)
- Northern SK: 19.69% (25 respondents)
Q11. I am a nursing student registered at the following site:

- Ile a la Crosse (0%)
- La Ronge (.79%)
- Prince Albert (10.24%)
- Regina (28.35%)
- Saskatoon (60.63%)
- Yorkton (0%)
Q12. What is your current program and year?

**NEPS**
- 4th year (15.75%)

**BSN**
- 2nd year (1st year in Nursing) (42.52%)
- 3rd year (2nd year in Nursing) (26.77%)
- 4th year (3rd year in Nursing) (0.79%)

**Post Degree BSN**
- 1st year (4.72%)
- 2nd year (0.79%)

**Graduate Program**
- 1st year (1.57%)
- 2nd year (0%)

**Stream**
- Thesis (1.57%)
- NP (3.15%)
- Course base (0.79%)

**PhD Program**
- 1st year (0.79%)
- Subsequent year (0.79%)
Q13. What is your age?

- Under 20 (9.45%)
- 20-24 (52.76%)
- 25-29 (13.76%)
- 30-34 (8.66%)
- 35-39 (7.09%)
- 40-44 (3.15%)
- 45-49 (2.36%)
- 50 & over (3.15%)
Q14. What is your gender?

- Male (10.24%)
- Female (89.76%)
- Transgender (0%)
- Prefer not to say (0%)
Q 15. How many dependents do you have?

- None (78.74%)
- One (5.51%)
- Two (8.66%)
- Three (6.30%)
- Four or More (0.79%)
Q16. Do you self-identify as a person of Aboriginal ancestry?

If yes, with which of the following groups do you identify?

- Yes (6.3%)
- No (93.7%)

- First Nations (25%)
- Metis (75%)
- Inuit (0%)
Q17. Would you identify yourself as belonging to any of these groups (check all that apply):

- International Student (1.59%)
- Landed Immigrant Status (3.97%)
- Student from a Visible Minority (4.76%)
- Student with a Disability (3.10%)
- Canadian Student (90.48%)
- Other (.79%) (Northern)
Q18. Do you have any other comments about studying abroad that you would like to share?

34.13% = Yes
65.87% = No

Comments

- Would love to but it is too expensive x7
- Easier for young, single students, family commitments is my problem now
- I would like options for family accommodations
- This program is a great asset to the College of Nursing X2 in my opinion
- Needs to be more funding available  x2
- I would like to do a rural experience in SE Saskatchewan
- I would like more information x4
- If the Ukraine is available in future I would be interested
- Concern of infectious diseases in underdeveloped countries
- I have already been accepted for next year X3, saving to pay for it is a problem
Study Abroad Student Survey

Limitations of the Study

• Response rate of 131 (12.4%)
• 10% is expected for online survey
• Timing of the Survey (when sent out)
• Incentives to participate
• Typically the students interested tend to participate
Study Abroad Student Survey

Findings

Results
- The Study Abroad online Survey was distributed to all College of Nursing students (all programs and sites) totaling 1058 students including both undergraduate and graduate students.

Response Rate
- 12.4% response rate (n=131)

Interest in Study Abroad
- High Interest in international experiences (83.6%), but barriers also high

Barriers to Study Abroad
- 71% indicating lack of funding as a key issue
- 30% Family responsibilities

High financial cost of participation (approx)
- Australia [$7000]; Finland [$10-12,000]; Tanzania [$6000], Philippines [$6000]
Study Abroad Student Survey

Findings

Awareness

- 89% of the students were aware of the undergraduate opportunities to Study Abroad at the U of S College of Nursing

Travel Experience

- 24% had not traveled outside North America
- 4% had not traveled outside of the province

Benefits

- Gain international nursing experience (77.17%); Learn about a different culture (70.87%); Gain self-awareness and independence (62.99%); Increase competency in nursing skills (59.84%); International research opportunities and/or clinical experience (54.33%); Demonstrate social responsibility (45.67%); Future employment opportunities (43.31%); Fulfill academic requirements (39.37%); and Learn a new language (26.77%).
Study Abroad Student Survey

Conclusions:

- International clinical experiences have benefits for nursing students, including personal and professional growth, and a broader understanding of cultural differences in health practices, health and social inequities, the social determinants of health and the WHO Millennial Development Goals in both local and global contexts, all factors affecting Canadian populations.

- With an increasing focus on local-global connections and health issues for populations internationally, we as educators wanted to explore students’ rationale for their choices, as a means of overcoming barriers to participation.

- With a commitment to increasing students’ international learning experiences, we report barriers and facilitators to study abroad clinical experiences and explore means of overcoming them.
Thank you

Any Questions?
References


References (cont.)
