A GLOBAL HEALTH INTERNSHIP FOR BSN STUDENTS

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY - COLLEGE OF NURSING
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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“ To Create the BD Global Health Internship for BSN Students”
Objectives for the project

• Advance students’ global healthcare perspective through internships in partner schools.
• Engage Students in clinically focused global health faculty led research projects.
• Immerse the students in selected international partnerships for practice and research.
• Disseminate the global health projects at the annual academic exposition.
International BSN Student Scholars

• The project is focused on high achieving junior and senior nursing students.
• Students submitted application through a highly competitive process.
• Criteria for selection included a minimum GPA of 3.5 along will a well modulated expression of objectives including the scholarly project to be undertaken.
Cooperative International Partners

- University of Philippines
- Macau Polytechnic Institute
- Wuhan University in China
- Metropolitan University, Copenhagen, Denmark
- University of Pretoria in South Africa
Formalized International Agreements

- Seton Hall University has been a leader in international studies for more than fifty years.
- The College of Nursing had agreements and experiences in mainland China in 1980 with universities in China.
- Renewed interest and now a strategic initiative to involve our students in formalized global experiences.
Selection of Experiences

• Students were able to select from both existing and emerging partnerships.
• Students were free to select their option for the internship.
• Formal competitive application process managed by involved faculty in collaboration with the Dean.
• Students were awarded grants of $2000 to support travel expenses with $200 to support their project.
University of the Philippines Experience

- Four of the students traveled to the Philippines where they were immersed in both urban and rural community health experiences.
- Students were part of a larger group of students which included 15 students in year 1 and 10 students in year 2.
- Students were accompanied by SHU/CON Faculty.
- In addition to the academic experiences students were engaged in cultural experiences.
Metropolitan University in Copenhagen, Denmark

- Semester long experience that is part of a budget neutral exchange agreement.
- Prior to our student’s study abroad experience we received a student from Metropolitan University who studied with us the prior semester.
- Our student spent the entire fall semester enrolled in Community Health Nursing visiting her patients on bicycle.
Student Projects

• The students selected a variety of patient care problems for their projects.
• Topics included: Management of Chronic Illness; Malaria, Malnutrition; Tuberculosis; and Dengue Fever.
• All projects provided an emersion experience for the students which mostly focused on problems not commonly seen in the United States.
Challenges and Limitations

• One student applicant applied for the University of Pretoria which was not possible mainly due to academic terms that did not align.

• It is difficult for students to carry a complete academic load to stay on course with the curriculum; on-line courses from the sending school could offset this.

• Our exchange student from Copenhagen was quite ambitious enrolling in 18 credits and eager for as many experiences as he could manage.
Some Minor Issues

• Grading the student without a university faculty member becomes dependent on the evaluation methods of the receiving school.
• Important to enroll student in equivalent courses from home school so that grade can be entered by the student’s home school.
• Housing issues could be potentially problematic, however there were no real issues.
Benefits for the School and Students

• All students felt that they experienced an extraordinary cultural immersion.
• All students felt welcomed and fully accepted.
• I visited with the student in Copenhagen and we were warmly received by the parents of the student who participated in the exchange semester at Seton Hall University.
• Provided unique experiences with infectious diseases.
• Students were quite impressed with health promotion programs in both countries.
Student Presentations

• All students presented their projects at the Annual Academic Exposition and did an exceptional job.

• Students developed a level of expertise that was most impressive.
Future Plans

• The fourth study abroad experience to the Philippines is underway.
• Three students from Copenhagen will be studying with us in the fall.
• Three of our students will be studying in Copenhagen during the spring semester.
• Our plan is to increase the numbers of students who study abroad.
• Hopefully study abroad will become an experience for all of our students.
Practical Matters

• Visa Issues.
• Health Insurance issues.
• Students seem to have no difficulty engaging with other international students.
• Facilitated the attainment of enhancing the students’ global perspective on healthcare.
Most Important Lesson Learned

• Our international colleagues are eager to learn and share with us to build a better future for all in healthcare and nursing.

• The lessons learned from this project need to be used to develop large scale projects.
Photos from the Philippines
Health Center in San Juan, Batangas
Top of Taal Volcano-Island of Luzon
SHU student and little boy in San Juan, Batangas
Mayor of San Juan, Batangas
Group shot in Pateros
San Juan, Batangas
QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS