Title:
International Perspective, International Collaborations: Logistic Considerations for Survey Research in Nursing Study Abroad and Exchange

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Session Title:
Research Poster Session 1

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Keywords:
Learning outcomes, Nursing education and Study abroad

References:


Abstract Summary:
This poster describes logistic considerations and strategies to overcome obstacles in surveying nursing degree programs around the world and their graduates about study abroad options, experiences, perceptions, and consequences.

Learning Activity:

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<th>LEARNING OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>EXPANDED CONTENT OUTLINE</th>
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<td>1. Define the nature of study abroad programs and participation in nursing within a multinational context.</td>
<td>1. Definition and description of study abroad in nursing degree programs. 2. Review of what is known about the benefits of study abroad in nursing degree programs.</td>
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<td>2. Analyze logistics of designing and conducting a survey to describe study abroad programs and participation in nursing.</td>
<td>3. Analysis of proposed benefits of study abroad in nursing degree programs and contextual demands for greater levels of evidence. 4. Description of survey research project to examine the structure, experiences, and outcomes of study abroad in a nursing degree program. 5. Introduction of proposed solutions for logistic challenges in conducting multi-national survey research in nursing study abroad. 6. Review of logistic considerations a. Identification of nursing programs around the world offering study abroad options within a degree program b. Identification of registered nurses across multinational context who may have participated in study abroad as part of their degree program c. Confirmation of study abroad participation by nursing programs d. Assessment of study abroad experiences, perceptions, and consequences by nurses who participated in identified programs</td>
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Abstract Text:
**Purpose:** To describe and suggest plausible solutions to address logistical challenges involved in designing and conducting multinational survey research examining study abroad options within degree programs, and participation in these programs at the university level from the perspectives of registered nurse alumni.

**Methods:** Nursing exists in a global context where essential principles of the discipline are shared, but education and practice vary widely. With the globalization of knowledge and increasingly diverse cultural makeup of communities, nurses contend with challenges in health promotion and maintenance on a trans-national level. Opportunities to experience nursing education and practice in societies other than one's own foster personal and professional growth, valuable comparisons, critical analyses, and possibilities to derive internationally-informed local innovations. Furthermore, trans-cultural study abroad experiences and potential innovations allow for advances in the nursing discipline and attainment of new goals in public health. Despite the potential of study abroad in nursing to address and pose solutions to global health challenges, research broadly constrained by convenience sampling and local foci limits the quality of evidence available and the confidence with which development of study abroad initiatives may be undertaken. Hence, scant evidence exists for use in guiding exchange program development, defining objectives, and evaluating outcomes for the visiting students and host communities. Overcoming logistical challenges of study abroad research in a multinational context is imperative to advancing educational research in this phenomenon. Our methods are to use expert consensus and colleague crowd sourcing to project viable solutions to these challenges.

**Results:** The logistical challenges encountered in planning survey research in nursing study abroad include four main concerns. These are: 1. identification of nursing programs around the world offering study abroad options within degree programs; 2. identification of registered nurses across multinational context who have participated in study abroad as part of their degree programs; 3. verification of study abroad participation on the part of registered nurses by nursing programs to allow for paired analysis of programs and participants within each program; and 4. optimal survey design to achieve robust assessment of study abroad experiences, perceptions, and consequences. We pose several potential solutions to overcome these challenges including networking strategies to accrue a complete list of study abroad program; development of a survey platform restricting access to confirmed program staff and their alumni study-abroad participants with data collection to facilitate analysis by program and other characteristics including global regions transited; pre-survey invitations to key international and national nursing organizations to promote partnership; and development of a resource website for institutions offering study abroad programs.

**Conclusion:** Philosophically, study abroad is understood as a broadening enhancement to degree programs in nursing. Current sociopolitical contexts for nursing, health, and well-being suggest such programs may in fact be far more essential to nursing education in the 21st century. These programs are valuable to innovations in nursing education and practice as a means to address and advance trans-national and trans-cultural public health maintenance, promotion, and outcomes. We anticipate important dialogue with potential partners in presenting our work through this poster.