

survey title:

Spring 2008 Study Away Evaluation

current report: **Default Report**

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Response Type: Normal Response

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Custom Value: empty

IP Address: 72.85.178.65

Response Started: Wed, 5/21/08 2:56:00 PM

Response Modified: Fri, 9/5/08 12:16:37 PM

1. What is your name?

EB

2. What is your gender?

Female

3. What is/are your major(s)?

Anthropology

4. What academic major or majors did you PRIMARILY pursue in your study away?

Major 1

Anthropology

Major 2

Not Applicable

5. What academic minor OR concentration, if any, did you pursue off-campus?

African Studies

6. What is the name of the program provider or (if you enrolled directly) host university where you studied?

ACM (Associated Colleges of the Midwest)

7. In what country and city did you PRIMARILY study?

Country/Countries - Botswana

City/Cities - Gaborone

8. If your program had a specific name or theme (such as Ecology & Conservation or Culture & Development), please provide it here.

ACM Culture and Society in Africa

9. Did you go on a Macalester recommended list program? (Check out the website to make sure! <http://www.macalester.edu/internationalcenter/studyabroad/recprog.html>)

Yes, I went on a Macalester Recommended List program

10. What were your housing arrangements?

Dormitory with international students

11. How did your housing affect your overall study away experience?

I had two roommates from America and three roommates from surrounding African countries. It was great getting to know the African students, but I think a short homestay would have enhanced my experience and exposed me more to Batswana culture.

12. How many students were in your program? (This question will apply mainly to self-contained programs such as CIEE and SIT).

19

13. Did your program or university provide you with an orientation? If it did, which of these topics did it cover? Was this adequate? Please comment on the ways orientation was helpful to you (or not).

Cultural Adjustment

Health

Physical Safety and Security

Comment: Yes it was helpful, but getting signed up for courses and library services took over two weeks after arrival.

14. Why did you choose this program?

I chose this program because I was interested in pursuing an independent research study in a country heavily affected by HIV/AIDS.

15. Below is a list of some common goals of off-campus study. Which of these (if any) were the three most important to you BEFORE you began your program?

Living in another culture

Doing a field research project

Gaining comparative perspective on my own culture and background

16. How well were these goals met? Please explain your answer.

I definitely experienced what living in a different culture is like and attending a University in a developing country was a unique experience. I enjoyed the experience of conducting the field work project, but it was very difficult to conduct interviews and lack of transportation made it next to impossible to access important resources. There needs to be stronger instruction in the field work course by the program director in terms of providing transportation and helping students' to get in contact with useful resources. I also think a short homestay should be available because living at the University minimally exposes you to traditional Setswana culture. ACM originally stated that their program offered a homestay or dorm living option, but living at the University was our only choice--this should have been explained more clearly in the program description

17. What were the strongest aspects of this program?

1) Program director's course was very interesting and well taught. 2) Organized trips were amazing, but I think more could have been offered over the course of the semester. 3) Playing basketball on the women's team at the University was an amazing experience and allowed me to get to know students better.

18. What were the weakest aspects of this program?

1) Weak academic program offered at the University--the elective course I took on HIV/AIDS was very elementary and the teaching was extremely poor. 2) Very difficult to pursue independent project due to lack of instruction/guidance and lack of transportation. 3) Weak

language instruction. Professor of Setswana course had never taught the language to English speakers before which made teaching style very ineffective. Classes often involved reading off vocabulary lists and repeating them. Class could be improved through having weekly vocab quizzes and incorporating more dialogue in the classroom. Phrases/Conversation on how to "get around" Gaborone should be emphasized.

19. If you had it to do over again, would you choose this program? Please explain.

All in all, I had an amazing experience in Botswana, but I would not choose this program if I could study abroad again. I acknowledge that this was the first year of the program, but the teaching at the University of Botswana was extremely weak and did not challenge me. Professors often did not show up for class and their teaching styles were ineffective (reading off notes in monotone voice/ repeating information over and over again). In addition, I had hoped to be more immersed in the culture which I think could have been accomplished through a host family living option.

20. Would you recommend this program to other Macalester students? Please explain.

No. I think it will take several years for this program to become more established and develop a stronger academic program. ACM needs to establish stronger ties with non-profit organizations and university professors, in order for the field work project to be more successful. In addition, language instruction in Setswana must be improved and reconstructed to teach students how to use the language to get around in daily life. All of these suggestions and frustrations with the program were expressed to ACM so it is hoped that these will aid in strengthening the overall program.

21. What is the name (or names) of the university where you took classes?

University of Botswana

22. What courses did you take?

Course - Demographic Aspects of HIV/AIDS

Course - Independent Field Study

Course - Globalization in Southern Africa

Course - Setswana

23. In general, how would you rate the quality of instruction you received?

	Poor (1)	Fair (2)	Satisfactory (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	N/A (0)
Instructors' knowledge of subject and preparation	X					
Curriculum and readings	X					
Fairness & clarity of grading system			X			
Other students' level of preparation and interest			X			

Comments: The above refers to the HIV/AIDS course and Setswana course. The other two courses taught by Prof. Lanegran from Coe College were strong.

24. Are there any classes and/or professors you particularly recommend? If so, please list and explain.

No Response

25. Are there any classes and/or professors that future students should avoid? If so, please list and explain.

Avoid "Demographic Aspects of HIV/AIDS Course"

26. What courses did you take?

No Response

27. In general, how would you rate the quality of instruction you received?

No Response

28. What was the topic of your Independent Study?

Challenges facing Community Home-Based Care Programs for HIV/AIDS patients in Botswana

29. Who (if anyone) was your academic advisor on the project? And please evaluate how helpful he or she was to you.

Professor Lanegran (Coe College)- helpful when I had specific questions, but instruction over the course of the semester was minimal unless she was approached. Due to this being a new program, Professor Lanegran was also learning along the way and was not familiar with the city, so we were often left on our own to figure everything out.

30. Did you have enough time and sufficient resources to do the project well? Please explain.

I would have hoped to conduct more interviews and visit CHBC organizations operating in rural areas. Access to these resources would have strengthened my project and allowed me to write a more in-depth analysis on the topic. ACM needs to develop relationships with local NGOs and CBOs because often times these places were not willing to speak with undergraduate students. The programs also needs to provide transportation or help students find ways to safely travel to important research sites.

31. What is the name of the organization or organizations with which you worked?

No Response

32. What did you do and how much time per week did you spend? Please describe.

No Response

33. Was your time well spent? How could the experience have been better? Please evaluate your internship experience.

No Response

34. What language did you study?

Setswana

35. How many college level semesters (or the equivalent) had you taken before you left for study away?

0 Semesters

36. In general, how would you rate the quality of instruction you received?

	Poor (1)	Fair (2)	Satisfactory (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	N/A (0)
Instructors' knowledge of subject and preparation		X				
Curriculum and readings	X					
Fairness & clarity of grading system		X				
Other students' level of preparation and interest			X			

Comments: Explained earlier.

37. How would you rate your improvement in language skills gained from your language study?

	No improvement (1)	Slight improvement (2)	Moderate improvement (3)	Great improvement (4)
Understanding spoken language		X		
Reading			X	
Writing			X	
Speaking		X		
Comments:				

38. What language did you study and live in?

No Response

39. How would you rate your improvement in language skills gained from living and studying in that language?

No Response

40. What do you wish you had known (but did not know) before you chose this program and/or location?

1) Wish I had known that ACM would not allow students to travel outside Botswana during program. I believe students should be allowed to travel to surrounding countries. 2) Wish had known that University dorms was only living option.

41. What could people at Macalester have done to prepare you better for your study-abroad experience?

Perhaps provided more in-depth program description, otherwise everyone was very helpful. I think Macalester needs to offer more programs focused on public health.

42. Recalling your Macalester pre-departure orientation (SO long ago), did it prove useful in fact? Were areas lacking? Please explain.

I found it very useful. Enjoyed talking to students about their previous experiences.

43. Did you experience anything like culture shock? If so, please describe it and what (if anything) you did about it.

Yes- it took time getting used to being in the minority as well as getting used to the different pace of life. I reminded myself that I was living in a culture completely different from my own and overtime I stopped noticing these differences that seemed so prevalent when I first arrived.

44. Did issues of crime, security or physical safety affect your study abroad experience? If so, please explain.

Personally, no, but several students had laptops, cameras, and money stolen from their door rooms. Most of us were living on the first floor of the dorms and were targeted for theft.

45. Did the work of on-site staff (resident director, for example, or international student office personnel) affect your study abroad experience? If so, please describe.

University staff were not very helpful.

46. Will you be willing to meet with (as part of their pre-departure orientation) Macalester students planning to study abroad?

Yes

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