

Creative Ways for Promoting Interaction between US Study Abroad Students and Host-Country Nationals

Pre-Departure Ideas

- get future study abroad students involved with international students or students on exchanges before they go - club of study abroad and exchange students
- preparation at orientation
- cultural history and sensitivity training; training on current events so students can participate in conversations
- set up e-mail pen pals before going to country

Housing Related Ideas

- homestays
- students stay in university dormitories - must be very few U.S. students per hall
- sharing apartments with host nationals

Peer Interaction Ideas

- locate international alumni from your university who have returned to the host country
- receptions with students who volunteer to befriend American students/club for U.S. and host country students - have students organize the activities together
- invite host nationals on excursions with students at little or no cost
- create a small committee of U.S. students participating in your program who are responsible for coming up with ideas for host student - U.S. student interaction
- language partners - provide social events specifically for language partners
- have native staff
- locate churches with active college-age groups
- masquerade ball

- scavenger hunt
- games night
- talent show/skit night

Ideas for Activities with Professionals and Families

- adopted families - (that they don't live with) - participants spend an evening with a family or do activities with the family
- social events with professionals in fields that students are studying

Academic Ideas

- ethnographic work - group projects or interviews that require that students talk to locals or interview their own host family
- collaboration with a professor from a host country university on group projects combining your students and theirs
- invite host national students to attend your classes
- non-credit classes - cooking, dancing, etc. where both host national and U.S. students can sign up
- internships - for credit or not
- bring native experts to your classes or your classes to them

Community/University Involvement Ideas

- volunteer work - establish contact with organizations so students know who to call - visiting elderly people; working with children, etc.
- use contacts with overseas international offices to see if they could use students as interns
- help students locate and join intramural or collegiate sports teams