



# **International Travel: Impacting Pre-Service Teachers' Experiences**

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# Overview of Participants

- **Ethnicities:**

- 57% -- Hispanic
- 29% -- Caucasian
- 14% -- no response

- **Various Travel Experiences:**

- 71% -- 1<sup>st</sup> time outside North America

- **Age:**

- 43% -- 18-25
- 29% -- 26-35
- 0% -- 36-45
- 14% -- 46-55
- 14% -- Over 55

- **Gender:**

- 14% -- Male
- 86% -- Female



# Overview of Trip (2014)

- **Curricular Focus: Government & Politics**
- **University Courses:**
  - Social Studies Methodology
  - English/Language Arts Methodology
- **Locations: London, Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris**
  - Houses of Parliament (London)
  - International Criminal Court of Justice (The Hague)
  - European Union (Brussels)
  - UNESCO (Paris)



# Overview of Trip (2015)

- **Curricular Focus: Comparing Pedagogy**
- **University Courses:**
  - Teaching & Pedagogy for EC-Elementary
  - Classroom Management
- **Locations: Finland & Sweden**
  - Elementary School Visit (Finland)
  - Meeting with Teachers (Sweden)



# Research Questions

- **What is the impact of a study abroad project on the levels of ethnocentrism of pre-service teachers in an education preparation program, if any?**
- **How does a study abroad project affect participants' knowledge, if at all?**
- **How does a study abroad project affect pre-service teachers' ability to integrate pedagogical methods with travel experiences, if at all?**



# Survey Questions

- I anticipate enjoying a culture other than my own.
- I anticipate that I will NOT become frustrated with hearing languages other than my own.
- Traveling promotes a better understanding of the world.
- I believe this trip will influence the way I teach social studies and about other cultures.
- I have read books pertaining to U.S. historical events.
- I have read books pertaining to world historical events.
- I believe this trip will add to my knowledge of government systems in the world.
- I believe this trip will add to my knowledge of historical events in the world.



# Lessons Learned

- **Double-buddy system**
- **Age restrictions**
- **Research free-time possibilities**
- **Gratuity**
- **Wake-up calls & backups**
- **15 minute cushion before scheduled meeting times**
- **Roommate situations**
- **Emergency plans**



# How did your travels outside the United States influence your perspectives about the United States?

- Traveling outside the US gave me knowledge of how different my expectations are with housing, fashion, and transportation.
- I was able to see how different the U.S. is compared to other countries and the different things acceptable in culture such as commute, foods, freedom, etc.
- It help me to understand that there are other countries besides the united states that have big influence on the world.





# How did your travels outside the United States influence your perspectives about the United States?

- The US seems smaller now that I have traveled to a country on a separate continent. I always felt that the US was much more advanced than other countries but I realize now that that's not necessarily the case. Although we have much newer buildings, the other countries also have built around their historical sites and have added technology to adapt. I also see the need for the US to promote multiple languages being taught in schools. In that aspect, the US is behind because there were many people who spoke multiple languages in the other countries and I don't see that as much over here.



# How did your travels outside the United States influence your perspectives about the world?

- Travels outside the US made me realize how lucky we are in the US. Many people in the US have an expectation of a big house, big yard, huge SUV. The people in other countries seem to live in smaller housing and many times use public transportation. They work hard, but seem to enjoy life by relaxing in public gardens/parks and taking strolls instead of rushing everywhere.
- The world seems so much more interesting and less threatening. It seems like a more beautiful place that I can't wait to continue exploring



# How did your travels outside the United States influence your perspectives about the world?

- The majority of people strive for better economic lives, more personal freedom, the right to strive for personal happiness, the majority strive for more education and better working conditions. Most people are essentially the same, but simply have their own interpretations of what they strive to attain in the way of education, freedom, and security. Confirms my belief that government and religion should be separated. A democratic society must have many checks and balances in order to have a free and open society. I like the many securities that our government has pull into place.



# How did your travels outside the United States influence your perspectives about the world?

- Makes the world a much smaller place after seeing more of it.
- It showed me that there is always something different and sometimes better else where. We should not be afraid of change and experiencing new things.



# Final Projects

- **Collaboratively-Created Website**
  - **minimum of 7 webpages**
    - **Blog**
    - **Teacher Toolbox**
    - **Video**
    - **Integrated Lesson Plan**
  - **as if you are EC-6th grade students who have learned Language Arts & Social Studies content standards throughout the trip**  
**(Politics & Gov't)**
  - **comparing Finland, Sweden, & US pedagogy and classroom management**  
**(Finland & Sweden)**



# Website Projects



<http://newawakenings.weebly.com/>

<http://sandjstudyabroad.weebly.com/>

<http://studyabroadtravels.weebly.com/>

<http://325204489990013900.weebly.com/>

<http://cristaklarrisa.weebly.com/>

<http://ajgabbie.weebly.com/>

<http://sarahcaitlineurope.weebly.com/>

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<http://muehlsteinsumpter.weebly.com/>

<http://twosistersabroad.weebly.com/>

# Questions? Need More Information?

