

Using eLearning to Enhance Short-term Study Abroad

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Workshop Goals

- **Workshop Goals:** By the end of this workshop, participants should be able to:
- Build a basic Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) to support law students on study abroad
- Instruct students on reflective eLearning Practice
- Develop questions designed to prompt reflective eLearning
- Evaluate various eLearning Resources (wikis, threaded discussions, ePortfolios) for their potential in enhancing study abroad

The Problem

NEWS
Semester Abroad Spent Drinking With Other American Students
 FEBRUARY 13, 2012 | ISSUE 2846

SEVILLE, SPAIN—Jon Bleivins, an Indiana University junior studying in Seville, has spent nearly all of his semester abroad drinking with other American college students.

[Enlarge Image](#)

Bleivins (center) drinks at a Seville cafe with a pair of exotic new friends from the University of Miami.

"Seville is incredible," said Bleivins, 19, finishing off a Cruzcampo beer at Capote Bar. "There are all these amazing cathedrals and statues and art museums. Hopefully, at some point, I'll get a chance to see some of it."

Dividing his time among classes, the Universidad de Sevilla's American dorms, and the handful of bars and clubs frequented by American students, Bleivins said the

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The Problem – Part II

NEWS
Report: More Colleges Offering Dick-Around Abroad Programs
 SEPTEMBER 18, 2010 | ISSUE 4607

Students get the opportunity to receive \$1,000 in repatriation in exchange for studying in Asia drinking with other Americans.

WASHINGTON—According to a report published this week by the U.S. Department of Education, an increasing number of universities now offer dick-around abroad

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Current Study-Abroad Webpages



Information on Law School Websites re: A Study Abroad Program

- Dublin is one of the fastest-growing European capitals with half of its residents under the age of 25! Known for its rock concerts, theater, countless pubs and cafes, sporting events, art galleries, and poetry slams, Dublin attracts youth from all over Europe and the world. Explore this city of beautiful Georgian architecture along the banks of the River Liffey during the week, and enjoy traveling through the beautiful Irish countryside on weekends! [Click here to see the Dublin Brochure.](#)
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Another Attempt – Student Away K.I.T.

The screenshot shows a Blackboard Learning System (BbLearn) interface in a Windows Internet Explorer browser. The page title is "DTS50 MSc in Applied Learning - Student Away K.I.T.". The left-hand navigation menu includes options like "Course Tools", "Learning Modules", "Assessments", "Assignments", "Calendar", "Chat", "Discussions", "Mail", "Profile", "Web Links", "Web's Online", "Discussion", "Module Catalogue", "My Tools", "My Grades", "My Files", "My Progress", and "Notes". The main content area features a "STUDENT AWAY K.I.T." logo and a list of links: "Work Abroad" (A student's work placement outside Ireland), "ePortfolio" (A student's work and reflection portfolio), "Assignments" (Tasks and assignments for the student to complete while on work placement), "Student testimonials" (A look at past student's experiences from working abroad), and "Student Away K.I.T. Presentation".

Example: Blogging/Reflection

The screenshot shows a "Student Away K.I.T. - Blog Guide" page in a Windows Internet Explorer browser. The page title is "Student Away K.I.T. - Blog Guide". The content is dated "THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2011".

What is a Blog?
 A blog is an abbreviation of web log. A blog can be described as an online journal or a webpage with content organized according to date. Within educational institutions blogs are increasingly being used as a tool for reflection as part of an ePortfolio. Blogs are commonly used as a tool or social networking sites to post information or news.

Posted by student at 1:38 PM 0 comments

Why Use a Blog for Reflection?
 A blog is a tool that provides a means to record your experiences and reflections over time. Each entry is recorded at a point in time and is listed in chronological order.

The information and reflective writings are stored in one space and can be reviewed at anytime allowing you to look back over your experiences, reflect on your learning and identify critical thinking.

In addition many students will be familiar with the concept and technology of blogs through their own personal social networking.

Posted by student at 1:38 PM 0 comments

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Exercise and Discussion

- With reference to eLearning Tools outlined above, create an eLearning experience to engage a law student on a short-term study-abroad program.
- Take 5 minutes to discuss with another participant
- Describe the eLearning experience below:

Conclusion

- Possibilities/Considerations:
- Before/During/After?
- Threaded Discussions
- Reflective Blogs
- ePortfolios
- Choice of eLearning Platform
- Digital Diaries

References

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Student Away K.I.T. - Blog Guide

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2011

What is a Blog?

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Posted by awaykit at 1:59 PM 0 comments

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The information and reflective writings are stored in one space and can be reviewed at anytime allowing you to look back over your experiences, reflect on your learning and develop critical thinking.

In addition many students will be familiar with the concept and technology of blogs through their own personal social networking.

Posted by awaykit at 1:39 PM 0 comments

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Reflective Questions to Ask Yourself

It can be difficult to know what to ask yourself when you start reflective practice. The following are example questions you might ask yourself about your work experience on a periodical basis. These are based on Gibbs Reflective Cycle.

Additional information on reflection is provided in the reflection guide: <http://prezi.com/aeyl0qrfo4n/reflection/>

Reflective Questions:

Description:

What did I do?

What were the aims?

What was the outcome or result?

Feeling:

How did I feel about the experience/task?

What affected my feelings?

How did my feelings alter my actions?

Evaluation:

What was good and what made me think this?

What was bad and what made me think this?

Analysis:

What were the key factors that affected my experience or the outcome?

How did my approach affect my experience or the outcome?

What needs to be examined for the future?

Conclusion:

What are the key things that I have learnt?

What factors affected the situation?

What weaknesses and strengths have been identified?

Action Plan:

What would I do (or not do) differently next time?

What would I need to implement changes?

These questions are suggestions to guide you through your initial reflections. As you develop your blog and reflective practice during your placement you may continue to ask the same questions or you may need to ask yourself alternative questions as you experience different situations.

Posted by awaykit at 1:21 PM 0 comments

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TIPS

- Keep focused
 - To the work placement
- Clear and concise writing
 - Check spelling and grammar
- Review postings
 - Allows for continual learning
 - Reflect on past experiences and relate to your current practice or actions
- Maintain professionalism
 - Can be used as evidence of life-long learning for future employers

Posted by awaykit at 12:30 PM 0 comments

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2010

Helpful links

You may be provided with a platform on which to create your blog in the Student Away KIT module however you can also set up a blog for personal use.

There is an abundance of information on the web on how to set up a blog page.

Many are free sites such as:

www.blogger.com

www.wordpress.org



Within these sites you will find links to instructional videos such as:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnploFsS_tY

Search around yourself to see if you can find a site that you like or provides you with what you want.

Remember: the Student Away KIT blog is to reflect on your work placement.

But: there is nothing to stop you developing another blog for your personal use.

Posted by awaykit at 8:55 AM 0 comments

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And finally

Hopefully you have found this blog helpful and informative.

Now it's up to you - **Blog Away!!!**

Posted by awaykit at 8:33 AM 0 comments

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