

## Overview:

This activity is designed for students who are preparing to study abroad. Students may receive an overwhelming amount of advice before they go abroad, so this activity is meant to help them prioritize and determine what is most important to them. This activity may also help them rethink their priorities or their perceptions of what it means to study abroad, as they may encounter information that had not occurred to them before.

## Background and Information:

This activity was created by Kris Acheson-Clair, PhD, Lindsey Macdonald, and the Purdue Study Abroad Advisers.

## Objectives:

As a result of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Identify effective strategies for succeeding in study abroad programs.
2. Determine whether strategies are best applied before, during, or after study abroad.
3. Discuss which strategies are the best fit for their particular contexts.

## Time:

30 minutes

## Group Size:

Pairs

## Materials:

Several copies of the Study Abroad Advice Cards (see [Downloads](#)), paper, pens/pencils. The facilitator can choose how many cards to give each group based on the time they would like to devote to the activity.

## Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- Denial
- Polarization
- Minimization
- Acceptance

## AAC&U Intercultural Knowledge and Competence Goals:

### Openness:

- To initiate and develop interactions with culturally different others.
- To suspend judgment in valuing interactions with culturally different others.

### Curiosity:

- To ask complex questions about other cultures.
- To seek out and articulate answers to these questions that reflect multiple cultural perspectives.

## Facilitator Activity Instructions:

1. Separate participants into groups and provide each group with copies of the Study Abroad Advice Cards. Each card will include a piece of advice for students to consider either before, during, or after they study abroad.
2. Ask each group to compare two cards at a time, and, with each pair, choose which piece of advice they feel is the most important. As they make their decisions, one person in the group should take notes on why they made their choices. Additionally, for each card, they should record whether the piece of advice is best applied before, during, or after a study abroad experience.
3. Each group should continue pairing and narrowing cards based on their level of importance until they decide on what they consider the #1 most important tip.
4. Have the groups present their most important tip and explain how they narrowed down their pairs, why they chose the final two cards, and whether the piece of advice on the card is best applied before, during, or after a study abroad experience.
5. Follow the activity with a brief discussion and ask the following questions:
  - Were there any Advice Cards that surprised you, or that you simply had not thought of before?
  - What other cards didn't make it to the top but were valuable pieces of advice worth sharing?
  - Were there any Advice Cards that you did not agree with? Why do you disagree with them?
  - After hearing how others narrowed down their cards, if you had to redo the activity, would you have chosen differently? Why?
  - Let's examine the balance between before, during, and after cards that were chosen. If there seems to be an imbalance, why do you think this happened? How can we find more balance between before, during, and after strategies?

## Related Tools:

*Tools to in conjunction with this lesson:*

- [Amazing Race, The! A Cultural Scavenger Hunt](#)
- [Culture Shock Absorber](#)
- [Danger of a Single Story](#)
- [Worldview Questionnaire](#)