Virtual exchange and education abroad: Synergies for sustainability

Dr. Kris Acheson-Clair, Purdue University
Dr. Jennifer Wiley, James Madison University
Dr. Carine Ullom, Ottawa University (USA)
Dr. Jennifer L. Wiley  
Research Fellow  
James Madison University  
Managing Partner, CoreCollaborative International

Dr. Carine Ullom  
Associate Dean of Instructional Innovation  
Ottawa University (KS)

Dr. Kris Acheson-Clair  
Director of the Center for Intercultural Learning, Mentorship, Assessment, and Research  
Purdue University

Purdue University

James Madison University

Ottawa University
Poll: Which of these best describes your experience with Virtual Exchange?

A. I know what it is, but haven’t been involved.
B. I have been a participant in a VE (of any kind).
C. I have experience embedding VE in a course.
Virtual Exchange (aka COIL or GCTL)
Globally Connected Teaching & Learning

An umbrella term for earning experiences that are carefully designed to encourage and support constructive cross-cultural communication, collaboration, and/or dialogue between individuals or groups who are geographically distant and/or from different cultural backgrounds.

These experiences are technology-enabled, sustained (conducted through institutional partnerships, curriculum-based, and guided), and supported by educators or facilitators.
Globally Connected Teaching & Learning

GCTL leverages ubiquitous, robust, and reliable technologies to bring the potentially transformative impact of meaningful intercultural experience to everyone.

Ullom, 2018

Adapted from the Virtual Exchange Coalition and EVOLVE (Evidence-Validated Online Learning through Virtual Exchange)
Virtual Exchange/GCTL

- carefully designed
- intercultural collaboration/dialogue
- technology-enabled
- supported (by mentors/teachers)
- transformative impact
The FIVE P’s of Virtual Exchange

- Partners/Partnerships
- Participants
- Pedagogy
- Personhood (the self)
- Platform (the technology)
- Policy (governments, accrediting bodies)
Virtual Exchange Models: Content & Platform

- Do-it-yourself
- Hybrid
- Off-the-shelf
Virtual Exchange Models: Student Interactions (DIY)

Faculty collaborate on course design

Lebanon Technology & Society

United States Health & Aging

Students collaborate: Influence of technology on health and fitness
Academic Calendar Alignment Example

Course A
16 weeks
Sept to mid-Dec

6 weeks:
Nov – mid-Dec

Course B
15 weeks
mid-Oct to Feb
Education Abroad and Virtual Exchange

- Intercultural competence development
- Career skills development/networking
- Build confidence & emotional resilience
- Develop global citizenship/identity
- Language learning
- Develop problem solving/life skills
- Connect global-local & content-context
- Social justice and world peace

Adaptation to new physical environment

Comfort with new workplace technologies
Small Group Discussion:

Please click on the Join button to enter your assigned breakout room. Expect 3-4 participants.

Given the overlap in learning outcomes for VE and EA, what are the potential advantages VE may offer in terms of “sustainability” (however you define that for your context)?
Lessons from Education Abroad
Lessons from Virtual Exchange
We need AUTHENTIC SPACES to practice ways to BRIDGE DIFFERENCE.
Virtual exchange example:
Prompt and dialogue technique
Resources

Virtual Peer Learning Modules
Crossing Borders Education and CoreCollaborative International
https://crossingborders.education/forum-on-education-abroad/

Intercultural Learning Hub
http://www.hubicl.org

Collection of Resources

International Virtual Exchange Conference (IVEC)
September 14-16, 2020
Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom
http://iveconference.org/