INTERNATIONAL PLACEMENTS: AN EMPOWERING METHOD TO FOSTER GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP?

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“Empowerment”

(Transformational / life-changing / employable)

• Process of becoming stronger and more confident?
• Taking responsibility and control of own life?
• Moving from ethnocentric to ethnorelative?
Claims of benefits used to attract students to programs

Global competencies
Employability
Personal empowerment
Cultural capital – juxtaposition, how does my culture stack up
Social capital – respect, food, hospitality

How do they recognise and apply learnings?
How can identified learnings be applied to subsequent program preparation?
Method

Survey students undertaking programs in Thailand and Malaysia

- Previous travel – further travel
- Length of program
- Was experience “transformational”? 
- What activities / interactions had an impact
- Global citizen? 
- suggestions / comments? 
- Further contact
Results

- First time overseas?
Results

Previous travel
No – 1
Yes - 14
• family holiday – 8
• Independent - 3
• Previous study experience - 3

Further travel
No - 3
Results

Transformational?
Results

What activities / events / opportunities had an impact?

• Engagement with community – project, host university, school x 10
• Engagement with peers from own uni x 4
• Engagement with students from host uni x 5
• Local culture and travel x 7
• Working with a team on a project x 3
• Engagement with accompanying lecturer x 2
• Engagement with industry
Observations

What activities / events/ opportunities had an impact?

• “Meeting indigenous people and seeing their struggles and successes *in comparison* to indigenous people in Australia”
• “Being able to have *unstructured conversations* with lecturer about their own personal thoughts on highly polarizing issues”
• “To meet those in eco-tourism *industry* in a developing nation and see that they face *similar issues* in engagement as we do here in Australia”
Observations

Global Citizen?
Yes 12  -  No 3

“Students need to be pushed more to take part. They have drastically improved my education outcomes and helped me grow as a person”

“I am now a qualified teacher and would love to organize trips with my school to Thailand”

“I wish I had stayed longer”

“I would recommend it other students”
Empowering - transformational - life-changing?

- Tangible – grades, employment outcomes, actions
- Intangible – identity, attitude, worldview

Intent - intervention - reflection
Contact Details

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