

1. Narrative of Student Monitoring and Experiential Learning Plan that Incorporates the Study Abroad Student Learning Outcomes

Aloha study abroad students!. During your summer study abroad in Dublin, Ireland I will be your direct contact with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. It is my responsibility, as Resident Director, to monitor your academic progress as well as your attendance and level of participation. I will also be responsible for facilitating and, if necessary, mediating any academic issues that arise during your time abroad, and finally I will insure that your final grade is properly transmitted and recorded for UHM credit.

As Resident Director, I'm also available for counseling and assistance in your adjustment to life in a new and different cultural environment. The study abroad program allows for a greater level of interaction between faculty and students, consequently discussions are not limited to classroom material and can extend to career decisions and philosophical discussions of your experiences abroad and how they may impact your life once you return home.

I will be available for individual meetings on a daily basis and we will arrange for several group get-togethers once the program schedule is set. Some of these meetings will involve excursions to the surrounding area to provide experiential opportunities related to the theme of the study group. That theme will center around the Great Irish Potato Famine of the 19th century. This environmental and cultural disaster ranks among the greatest public health calamities of Europe in the 19th century and resulted in the decimation of nearly 25% of the Irish population. Together we will explore the history of the famine, its origins, impact, and lessons for modern society. Students will write brief reports on the public health implications of the famine and pursue individual topics of interest to the student. Examples could include an examination of the agricultural practices that contributed or the role of English colonization and social class disparities in the disaster. Other possibilities include an assessment of modern views of the event through conversations with Irish citizens, or an examination of the impact of emigration on Irish culture and society. In conjunction with a social get-together we will endeavor to watch the 4 part series "When Ireland starved - The great Irish famine" during weekly get-togethers and discuss the issues raised by this documentary.

This exploration of the Irish famine will provide experiential learning beyond your academic classes and excursions to insure that the Student Learning Outcomes of the Study Abroad Center are met. These goals include the following:

- 1) a deeper knowledge and understanding of other cultures and their environments;
- 2) different perspectives in regard to other nations;
- 3) increased capacity to analyze issues with appreciation for disparate viewpoints;
and
- 4) increased respect and tolerance of differences – all contributing to a citizenry better able to succeed in the 21st century

These will be accomplished through research into the topic described above and personal interactions with faculty and citizens to gain insight into modern views of Irish history. Students are encouraged to keep a journal to record the information you obtain in your daily contacts as well as excursions. This journal can include text, photos, drawings, clippings from local newspapers or magazines, poetry - it's your journal, so you can express in your own style. You may share it with other participants online, or you may keep it personal and share it only with me. There is an expectation that each student will complete a 5 page report describing some aspect of interest analyzing the causes, impacts, or missed opportunities that may have contributed to the disaster known as the Great Irish Famine. The report should include original sources such as printed records, but may also include information gathered from oral interviews during your stay.

The Resident Director is responsible for mentoring UHM students to ensure student learning outcomes through contextual learning activities and for assessing student compliance with expected work and that the student learning outcomes are achieved. Specifically students will be assessed via the following rubric:

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Rubric

Student Learning Outcome	Below Expectation	Satisfactory	Exceptional
Demonstrate awareness of your own cultural values and biases and how these impact your ability to work with others.	Fails to maintain a journal,, or entries lack meaningful intercultural interactions.	Submits regular journal entries that include self reflection on cultural learning though immersive experiences.	Journal entries show insights into cultural contributions to environmental health issues and the diversity of thought that exists.
Demonstrate knowledge of diversity with a focus on the population or topic of interest in your Study Abroad program.	Failure to communicate with RA on the progress of your investigation	Clear descriptions of diverse points of view encountered in the students research and reflect in journal and report writing	Demonstrated ability to translate material learned in the study abroad experience to other cultures .
Communicate appropriately and effectively with diverse individuals and groups.	Poor attendance, participation in programs, including excursions.	Demonstrated interactions with local individuals to gain insight into one's topic of interest.	Broad interactions with many individuals and the ability to synthesize those interactions into written reports and journal entries.
Demonstrate an increased capacity to analyze issues with appreciation for disparate viewpoints.	Failure to complete a written report on the subject of interest	Report should contain some opposing points of view or information that requires critical analysis to help determine the the true underlying causes.	Demonstrated increased insight into the multifaceted views that go into decision-making and the ability to analyze their implications and impacts.

Dr. Robert Cooney

The Study abroad Program represents an ideal way to study other cultures on site and to interact with faculty in a one on one manner. It is as much a learning experience for me, as a professor, as it is for you the student. The Irish potato famine has many political, social, and scientific parallels to other events in world history that have impacted other indigenous populations. The ability to study such an event and its impacts is an excellent opportunity to broaden your perspective and realize the commonality across cultures as well as the differences.