Global Experiential Education and Employability

The SMU Experience
Global Exposure at SMU – where we stand

Class of 2017 - % students with global exposure activities

- With at least 1 activity: 87%
- With 2 or more activities: 55%
- International Exchange Programmes: 64%
- Overseas Community Service Projects: 55%
- Study Missions: 24%
- International CCA competitions: 14%
- Overseas Internships: 6%
# Overseas Community Service Projects

- In 2017, 1,378 SMU students participated in 145 projects either on an individual basis or as a group across 15 countries.

- Project scope includes school refurbishment, conversational English, IT skills, leadership, confidence & team building, life skills training, hygiene classes, enrichment programmes, mentoring, academic, women empowerment, micro social-enterprises, marine conservation.

## Projects Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No. of Groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hong Kong SAR*</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Israel *</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Laos</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>South Korea *</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- In 2017, 44 group-based overseas projects were organised for 3rd or more continuous year.
- 34 overseas projects have been organised for the 5th or more consecutive year.

* Individual projects only
Overseas Internships

From 2015 to 2017
• 405 students did internships in 38 countries
• 2 direct conversions from internships to full-time career overseas
• Another 3 chose to work overseas as a result of their overseas internships
Other types of trips

Business and Cultural Study Trips
• International students lead and organise trips to their home countries for local students to gain better appreciation of diverse cultures and business environments
• 352 students involved in trips to 10 different countries from 2010 to 2017

Study Missions
• Credit-bearing courses which require students to pick up academic knowledge during term
• Courses would culminate in overseas trips that provide current insights into industries through meetings and company visits
• Networking journeys to countries such as Argentina, Chile, China, Germany, Qatar, Russia, Spain, UAE, USA, and Vietnam
• Opportunities to establish new contacts or even secure internships and full-time employment
Benefits of Global Exposure—Anecdotal Evidence

“To see the world from another perspective, to embrace different cultures and ideas; this has helped me both personally and professionally, it has taught me to adapt and has enabled growth. It equipped me with skillsets that cannot be nurtured within the constraints of a classroom, and the confidence and independence to challenge myself to be bold, to step out of my comfort zone.”

Low Wen Chun
Director of Investment, FundNel Limited and SMU Alumnus

“Overall, the experiential learning throughout the Arts and Culture Management Study Mission allowed us to gain a greater perspective, both in breadth and depth, of the joint relationship between management expertise and the art itself in sharing a common goal of encouraging innovation and discourse through the arts. The opportunity to witness this exchange first hand with our peers is something that we will treasure for a long time to come.”

Sarah Goh
School of Social Sciences, Class of 2019
Benefits of Global Exposure—Anecdotal Evidence

“Upon returning to our Lion City and having had the time to reflect on this remarkable journey, I was hit by the realisation of how much I had learnt and gained—possibly even more than what I managed to contribute to the Hue community—from this experience. One example would be how the constant, easy smiles from the children had brought back to me a sense of optimism for the future, which I seemed to have lost over the years. There were multiple defining moments during the trip, and for someone who used to cower away from any interaction with children, the way I was able to step outside of my comfort zone and connect with the local kids was a personal milestone.

It is said that in times of adversity and change, we discover who we are and what we are made of. The process may not have been entirely smooth sailing but because of that, I truly realise the importance of perseverance. It has been a privilege to meet and work alongside the locals in Hue and my fellow team members, all of whom had exemplified the spirit of never giving up.”

Leow Hui Min
Lee Kong Chian School of Business, Class of 2019
Global Exposure at SMU – where we want to go

- Global exposure will be a graduation requirement from AY2018
- Efforts to augment existing opportunities, offer new programmes and enhance financial support for students
- New opportunities including SMU-XO, which marries the distinctive pedagogy of project-based learning with real-life partners and overseas exposure
Future Work Skills developed by Global Exposure

Source: Infographic by trendhunter.com
Based on Future Work Skills 2020 report by Institute for the Future
Does Global Exposure translate to employability?

“I assess private investment opportunities into a myriad of businesses, and develop offline and digital strategies for investments both large and small—the knowledge of many geographical and cultural nuances collected all over the world has helped me in the evaluation of regional deal flow daily.”

Low Wen Chun
Director of Investment, FundNel Limited and SMU Alumnus

“In school, I was interested in finding a way to help people while also doing businesses. I want the world to be a better place and so I believe in being proactive and I believe in trying to make every interaction a positive one. My [overseas] experiences definitely taught me many skills, in addition to giving me an appetite for more. I place high importance on international experience [when hiring] as it shows me that the candidate is proactive, not afraid to step out of his or her comfort zone, and probably has essential skills needed to be successful.”

Denise Lim
SMU Business and Social Sciences (Magna Cum Laude) alumnus
Entrepreneur in Guatemala
Does Global Exposure translate to employability?

“I believe global exposure gives me a competitive edge when I am looking for a job. In a world that is getting more and more borderless, the need for a good grasp of international affairs as well as to the exposure to different cultures becomes more crucial. There are many benefits of such exposure, which may include, but not limited to:

• **Making you an interesting individual.** Firms do look out for people that are interesting - because work cannot be the only defining characteristic. An interesting person makes work / the team dynamics more fun to be in.

• **Creativity.** Ideas often come from being able to combine perspectives from other countries you have been exposed to and your own country.

• **Being a better problem-solver.** Having an international exposure allows you to see and solve problems from different angles - hence making you a more effective problem-solver.”

Wong Jing Hao
School of Law & School of Economics, Class of 2019
(responses to an email interview)
Exchange Programmes and Development of Skills

The exchange was helpful in developing my

- Knowledge of my field of study
  - Strongly agree: 29.40%
  - Agree: 59.16%
  - Disagree: 10.50%

- Leadership skills
  - Strongly agree: 27.36%
  - Agree: 59.25%
  - Disagree: 13.04%

- Teamwork skills
  - Strongly agree: 32.44%
  - Agree: 56.98%
  - Disagree: 10.00%

- Communication skills
  - Strongly agree: 51.92%
  - Agree: 47.04%
  - Disagree: 0.93%

Source: Survey of SMU Students who participated in International Exchange Programmes in AY2017 (n=862), SMU International Office
It is interesting spending time talking with people from other cultures.

In addition to being a citizen of my own country, I think of myself as a global citizen.

People in my home country can learn from people in other parts of the world.

I like trying to understand people's behaviors in the context of their own culture.

Please select the response that most closely aligns with your feelings.

Source: Survey of SMU Students who participated in International Exchange Programmes in AY2017 (n=862), SMU International Office
THANK YOU