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‘THE DEPARTURE LOUNGE’

Preparing Students for a Year Abroad

Becky Kidner, Study Abroad Officer
Leeds University Business School

Year Abroad Conference Friday 13th September 2019

Welcome & Introductions



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Becky Kidner

Study Abroad Officer

(Leeds University Business School)

- Joined the University of Leeds in October 2012 (this is my 8th academic year!)
- Graduated with a BA Fine Art from Kingston University (2008)
- Studied abroad in 2006 at Grand Valley State University, Michigan (USA)
- Self Employed Artist: <https://beckykidner.blogspot.co.uk/>
- My Diary Drawing project has been going for over 10 years and actually the idea started when I was on my semester abroad.
- I love my job, supporting students to succeed and reach their goals. The creation of the Departure Lounge was born from a desire to prepare students better for what was to come, and to have them make the most of their time abroad, I want a YA to be an experience they never forget, just as it was for me!



Today



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- Introduction to 'the Departure Lounge'
- Overview of sessions
- Collaboration
- Feedback
- What Next?
- Questions / Discussion



Introduction

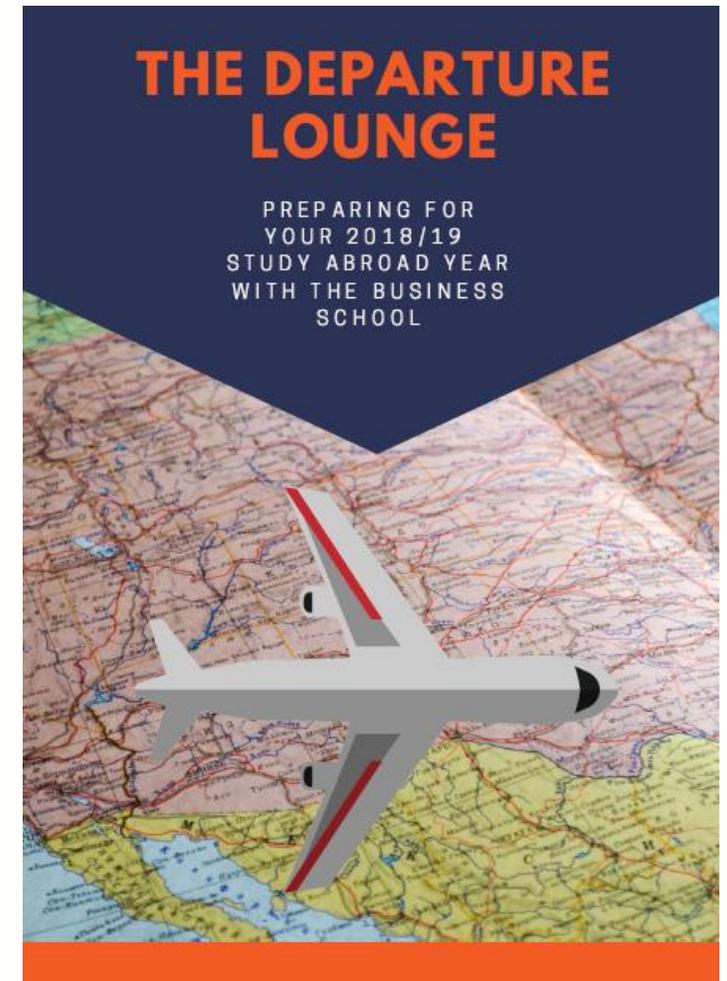


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‘The Departure Lounge’ is a series of **interactive** and **practical** sessions, utilising physical and online **resources** to support students through pre-departure and beyond. It was born from a need to better prepare students for the journey ahead, as well as having **necessary documents and paperwork** completed for the school.

The focus is about the **individual student journey** and tailoring support to meet their needs.

In faculty, these sessions are designed to fit alongside other pre-departure activities and events organised by the central SAO. The pre-departure programme as a whole offers a consistent, regular touch point through the semester where students are supported in a group, which can **cut down on the number of 1:1 appointments and reduce the number of student withdrawals.**



1: 'Your Journey Starts Here'



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Your Study Abroad Journey has begun!

This interactive and practical workshop will focus on your **Personal Development Plan**. What do you want to get out of your Study Abroad experience? What are your goals and aspirations?

How can you make sure you achieve your goals and how can we support you to do so?



2: 'Booking Confirmation'



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During this session we will be providing application and module **support for those going through the application process** to your host Universities.

We will highlight some of the key dates and deadlines and tell you more about the application process.

Our main focus in this session will be choosing modules. We'll look at examples of what students have taken before and use these to explore how you can really get the most from your study experience abroad.

Your questions will be answered in a Q&A session with Becky and Lucia.



3: 'The Long Way Round'



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Building on from the first session, today we will expand on personal development planning. In particular we will be looking at **your personal SWOT analysis** - Assessing what are your strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats. We will look at different **methods and tools to facilitate self-reflection**, including how to start a 'learning diary' and the do's and don'ts of reflective recording.

This will be an **important part of your year abroad** as well as **valuable life skill** for your future after University- The journey is never really over!



4: 'Journey Planning'



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Who, what, where, when, why? Where are you going? What do you need to do? What do you need to know? This session will be interactive and practical, seeing where you are in the process and what you need to do next. We'll look at some tools and resources to support you in the process of preparing for next year.

In particular we'll be working on the Risk Awareness form which you will need to complete, and how this form can be used to your advantage in helping you to get organised!



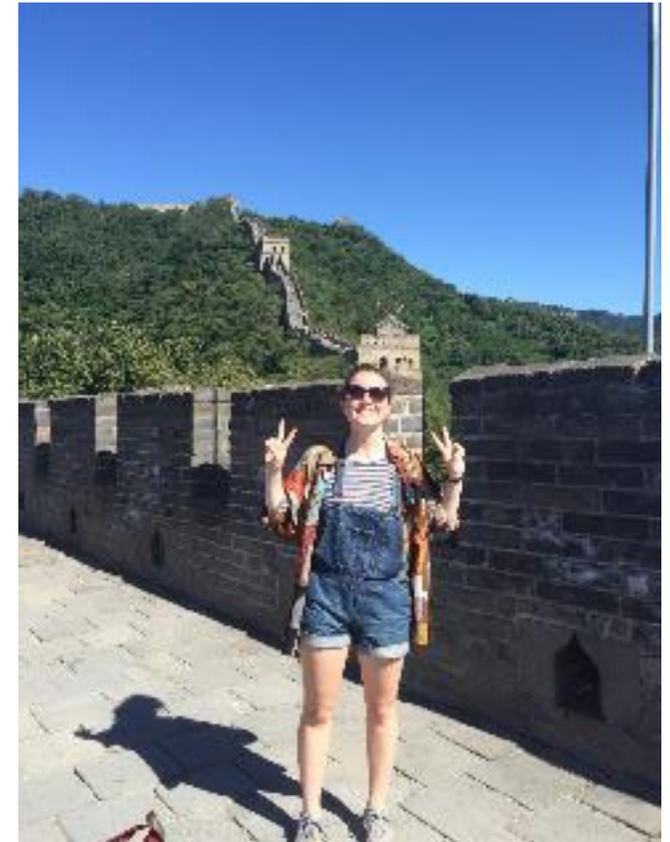
5: 'Your Journey May be Subject to Delays'



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'What could possibly go wrong'!? During this session we will be reviewing **case studies** of when things have not turned out the way they were planned. We will be discussing **exams and progression** as well as looking at the **student support** offered before, during and after your year abroad.

This session will also focus on **coping strategies** and **adapting to change**, and will give an insight into some of the challenges you will face on your year abroad.



Collaboration

- Utilising the student voice
- Academic input
- Working with central Study Abroad Office
- Working with colleagues in International Office, and Student Education
- Creating a cohesive Pre-Departure Programme

ALL EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY
15:00-16:30 - SR 1.05, LUBS

THE DEPARTURE LOUNGE #1:
'Your Journey Starts Here'

WEDNESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY
15:00-16:30 - SR 1.15, LUBS

THE DEPARTURE LOUNGE #2:
'Booking Confirmation'

WEDNESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY
TBC

STUDY ABROAD OFFICE WORLDWIDE
COUNTRY BRIEFINGS

WEDNESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY
TBC

STUDY ABROAD OFFICE EUROPE
COUNTRY BRIEFINGS

TUESDAY 6TH MARCH
15:00-16:30 - SR 1.05, LUBS

THE DEPARTURE LOUNGE #3:
'The Long Way Round'

WEDNESDAY 14TH MARCH
15:00-16:30 - SR 1.15, LUBS

THE DEPARTURE LOUNGE #4:
'Journey Planning'

WEDNESDAY 18TH APRIL
14:00-15:30, SR 1.31, LUBS

THE DEPARTURE LOUNGE #5:
'Your Journey May Be Subject To
Delays'

COMPULSORY EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL
14:00-16:00, SR 1.03, LUBS
&
TBC

LUBS9001 BRIEFING: EUROPE
&
STUDY ABROAD OFFICE PRE-
DEPARTURE CONFERENCE: WORLDWIDE

WEDNESDAY 2ND MAY
14:00-16:00, SR 1.33, LUBS
&
TBC

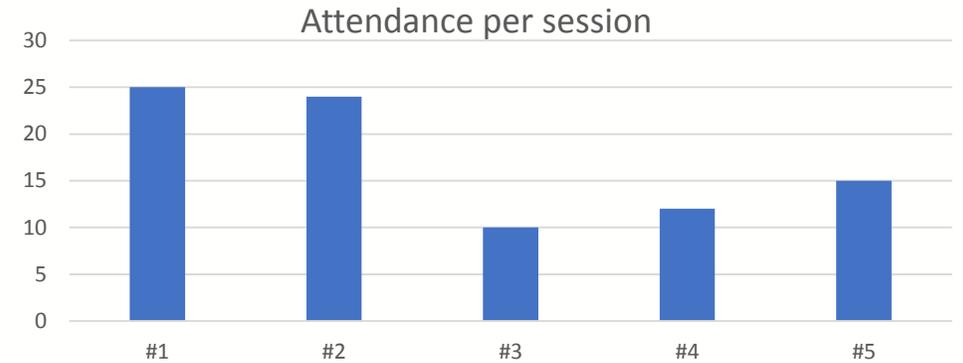
LUBS9001 BRIEFING: WORLDWIDE
&
STUDY ABROAD OFFICE PRE-
DEPARTURE CONFERENCE: EUROPE

Feedback



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- 56% Participation from students placed
- 58% of attendees wanted to meet others going to the same destinations as them
- 88% wanted help in getting organising and navigating next steps in the process
- 'Most Useful' session was #4 (which was also the most practical of the 5)
- 93% of students said Attending a D.L session or reviewing resources afterwards helped them feel more prepared for their Year Abroad



"I thought it was useful to hear about the extra stuff other people got involved with on their year abroad"

"Useful information. Feel much more prepared"

"I would have liked more students to talk at the departure lounges and well as more from a student perspective"

What Next?

- The success of the D.L in faculty led to an adoption of the model by the central study abroad office in the following year
- Collaborated on the 'Study Abroad Networking' event
- Additional events held on 'Language Preparation', 'Finance & Funding' & 'Travel Tips'
- Webinar held on Erasmus+ paperwork
- Looking towards having structured 'Re-Entry' programme for students that took part in D.L, who are now coming back into final year



STUDY ABROAD 2019-2020

Pre-Departure Programme



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Thank You!



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Questions & Discussion

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