

Integrating International Experiences Into the OSU Biology Program

Integrating International Experiences Into the OSU Biology Program

- Existing strengths in Biology
- International efforts in Biology
 - Assess and organize
 - Collaborate and expand
 - Curriculum integration
- Biology's emerging culture of international experience



Existing Strengths of Biology for Promoting International Experiences

- Motivated students interested in making a difference and going abroad
- Strong student services with centralized elements
- Professional advisors with time to commit to promotion and development of opportunities
- Emphasis on student professional development and involvement
- Philosophy: It is the students' education
- Supportive Chair and College

Early International Efforts in Biology: Assess and Organize

- Assessed student interests and offerings
 - Which students go abroad?
 - Where do our student go abroad?
 - When should students go?
 - What areas of curriculum should be covered?
 - What areas are students pursuing professionally? What experiences do they need?
 - What are the barriers for going abroad?
 - Where do students want to go?

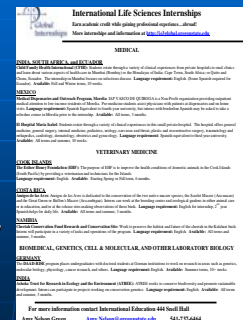


International Efforts in Biology: Assess and Organize (continued)

- Organized and matched existing programs that worked
 - Study abroad
 - Easier for students who are intimidated
 - More advising work due to course articulation
 - Field based options important to our students
 - IE3 Global Internships
 - Professional experience and application of learning
 - No articulation – use as elective internship credits
 - Greater cultural integration
 - International Degree
 - Professional experience and application of learning
 - Tangible product in thesis

International Efforts in Biology: Assess and Organize (continued)

- Developed handouts (Students and Advisors)
 - Organization of study abroad schools by geography – emphasized field based and disciplinary specialties
 - Disciplinary organization of internships (geography and language also)
 - Increased visibility of International Degree



International Efforts in Biology: Assess and Organize (continued)

- Simplified advising structure in Biology
- Expanded and organized promotion on listserves, orientations, meetings, posters
- Noted geographic, language and disciplinary gaps



International Efforts in Biology: Collaborate and Expand

- Met with International Education and Outreach (IEO) and Oregon University System (OUS) Representatives
 - Promoted communication
 - Made direct contacts
 - Educated myself about international programs
 - Educated the international staff about our program
 - Expressed needs and provided leads



International Efforts in Biology: Collaborate and Expand

- Met with IEO and OUS Representatives (cont.)
 - Promoted communication
 - Resolved roles
 - Orientation, logistical support, program development and promotion
 - Course and program evaluation and academic planning
 - Documents and procedures to streamline and clarify the process for students



International Efforts in Biology: Collaborate and Expand

- Met with IEO and OUS Representatives (cont.)
 - Promoted communication
 - Resolved roles
 - Worked on promotion
 - Shared documents used by students and advisors (later other schools)
 - Collaborated on posters
 - Worked on email promotion
 - Collaborated on orientations and meetings



International Efforts in Biology: Collaborate and Expand

- Met with IEO and OUS Representatives (cont.)
 - Promoted communication
 - Resolved roles
 - Worked on promotion
 - Simplified and coordinated abroad advising process
 - Courses approved by me
 - Internship credit documents turned into our office
 - Contacts clarified for IEO and OUS



International Efforts in Biology: Curriculum Integration

- Curriculum integration document
 - Further organization of resources
 - Expansion to funding opportunities and other areas
 - Expansion of disciplinary opportunities, geography, language and experience (third-party providers)
- Communication about student experiences and evaluation



Biology's Emerging Culture of International Experience

- Students are told they can go abroad from the beginning
- Students hear stories from other students about their success abroad
- Students are given materials and advising clearly outlining how to go abroad
- Students are reminded of opportunities through promotion in orientations, advising, listserves, posters, meetings and handouts
- Students are supported in going abroad through clear advising protocols and resources in the Office of International Education and Outreach and Biology