

Webinar #3, Fall Semester 2019:

Creating a Culture of Support for Intercultural Learning

Rich Kurtzman, Barcelona SAE

Thursday November 14, 2019 – 1-2 pm Eastern



While far away from their typical support structures, students and interns abroad are asked to push their boundaries and extend themselves beyond their comfort zones. This is why we must create a culture of support overseas while stretching our students to further their intercultural learning. Rich Kurtzman has spent 17 years working directly with students on-site, developing new activities based on intercultural theories and his own experience, and teaching workshops and classes such as “Intercultural Communication and Competence,” “Internship Seminar for Professional Growth,” “The Culture of Food and Wine in Spain” and “Harnessing Growth Mindset in Education Abroad.” As a professor, intercultural coordinator, coach, and director of programs, Rich has worked with thousands of students, and hundreds of intercultural educators to provide cultural mentoring aimed at intercultural growth through the study abroad or internship experience and continues to do so today as CEO of Barcelona Study Abroad Experience (SAE).

This webinar provides a brief background on theory but will focus more on the practical activities that have been tried and tested throughout the years. Rich will walk the participants through the activities in a manner that is simple enough to not just understand, but later replicate on their own, so they will walk away with activities they can incorporate immediately. In addition to exercises applicable to students, this webinar will go beyond and explain the intercultural training that Barcelona SAE has developed for both on-site staff, faculty and homestay families through our TODOS initiative (The Outcomes-based Diversity Outreach Strategy) to create a culture of support for our underrepresented students including training on micro-aggressions, history of race relations in America, and LGBTQ issues.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will have opportunities to:

- Cite the theoretical principles that encourage and support the activities;
- Deliver and debrief several activities for students that will increase cultural awareness and understanding, even from a distance;
- Create their own mini-training program for on-site staff, faculty and homestay families based on the Barcelona SAE cultural programming and TODOS activities described.

About the Presenter

Rich Kurtzman has been working in the field of International Education since 1998. Prior to founding Barcelona Study Abroad Experience (SAE) in 2009, he led groups of high school students abroad through World Learning, worked for IESAbroad in Chicago and Barcelona, taught courses on Spanish Culture and Intercultural Communication in Barcelona through CEA abroad and worked as an Intercultural Consultant for Business Executives with Berlitz Cultural Consulting. Rich has presented dozens of sessions at NAFSA and Forum including: Increasing Cultural Awareness in Short-term programs: A toolkit of Activities, Helping Students Make the "Right" Decisions: Using Choice Architecture and Nudge Theories, and Using Reentry Workshops for Continued Professional and Personal Development. In 2017, Rich had a prime time spot on the NAFSA Soundstage to present on Interactive Activities to Gain Cultural Awareness. He also sends out "Culture Stock: Tips and Strategies for Increasing Cultural Awareness"; a bi-monthly newsletter.