

## Webinar #3, Spring Semester 2018:

### Embedding intercultural learning into short-term and faculty led programs

Elsa Maxwell

March 29, 2018 1-2 pm Eastern time

In the past decade, faculty led and short-term study abroad programs have become increasingly common in U.S. higher education. These programs allow faculty to internationalize their curriculum, while also increasing access to students who otherwise are not able to study abroad for a semester. At the same time, there is a commonly held belief that short-term programs are less effective at promoting meaningful intercultural competency gains when compared to semester study away programs. Due to the intense nature of the itineraries and a tendency to prioritize “must-see” tourist sites, we run the risk of providing students with a surface level understanding of the host culture.



Recent case studies and research, however, show that when appropriately designed and facilitated, short-term programs can be just as effective --if not more so-- than long duration programs. In this webinar, we explore best practices and methodologies for embedding intercultural learning into faculty led and short-term programs in order to effectively facilitate intercultural development. We will discuss how to holistically integrate intercultural learning without overloading an already tight itinerary; how to leverage and transform site visits into meaningful learning opportunities; and how to maximize student learning and reflection by employing pre-briefing and debriefing practices based on experiential learning theory.

#### **Learning Outcomes: Participants will:**

- Review recent research related to intercultural growth on short-term and faculty led programs;
- Acquire practical frameworks for embedding intercultural and experiential learning into program design
- Learn to maximize site visits and cultural activities through systematic pre- and debriefing sessions

#### **About the Presenter:**

Dr. Elsa Maxwell teaches literature at the Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez in Viña del Mar, Chile. Prior to her appointment at the university, she served as Academic Director of Intercultural Learning for CIEE study abroad programs worldwide. In this role, she developed intercultural curricula for semester and short-term programs, assessed student learning, trained and coached instructors, and facilitated faculty development

seminars. She is a seasoned IDI coach and has presented at conferences such as WISE, the Forum, NAFSA, and CIEE. She also has more than a decade of experience as a resident staff for CIEE study abroad programs in Chile. She resides in Valparaíso.