

# JALT International Conference 2022 Study Abroad SIG Forum Abstracts

## Learning Through Online Study Abroad

Date: Saturday, November 12th

Time: 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM (90 minutes)

Room: 403

Moderator: Nagashima, Lyndell (Study Abroad SIG Coordinator)



	Title, Presenter	Abstract
12:45	Opening: Nagashima, Lyndell (Study Abroad SIG Coordinator)	
12:48   13:00	<p><b>Designed for Study Abroad Online: A Short-Term Weekend Mandarin Program</b></p> <p>Oda, Toshiko Tokyo Keizai University</p>	<p>A one-month online program of Mandarin Chinese in 2021 took full advantage of the online medium and had a unique design. It was offered on weekends to accommodate working adults who would otherwise have been unable to study abroad. The program's focus was optimized for the online study abroad medium, namely test preparation. Unlike young students, the demand for cultural study was low among the participants of the program because most of them already have much experience in China. This study is unique in that the author herself participated in the program as a student.</p>
13:02   13:17	<p><b>Studying Abroad in a Pandemic: Influences on Students' Choices and Pre-Departure Concerns</b></p> <p>James, Daniel Hiroshima Shudo University</p>	<p>A small group (seven) of Japanese students intending to participate in exchange programs at universities in 3 different countries (Canada, the Czech Republic and Taiwan) completed an online questionnaire pre-departure. The questionnaire covered the decisions on the students' exchange programmes e.g. destinations, length of study, previous study abroad experience (in person and online) as well as other additional concerns that they held prior to leaving Japan.</p> <p>The questionnaire revealed three noticeable trends:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. previous study abroad experience was an important factor in the determining the decision to participate in an exchange programme;</li> <li>2. long-term concerns of university studying/lessons and looking for a job were more major concerns than COVID-19;</li> <li>3. respondents had a varied array of more practical concerns e.g. food, money, use of smartphones, personal relationships and friends.</li> </ol> <p>Follow-up post-return interviews with the respondents are planned to assess the pre-departure concerns.</p>
13:20   13:35	<p><b>Transitioning from Traditional to Online Study Abroad - What Works, and What Doesn't</b></p> <p>Legge, Thomas Momoyama Gakuin University</p>	<p>This presentation briefly highlights what the speaker considers to be the core components of the traditional study abroad experience, before analyzing the extent to which these transfer across to an online study abroad program. While some elements of traditional study abroad work well in the online space, others require significant modification, while some are unlikely to work at all. This presentation seeks to categorize these components, utilizing real examples from online study abroad information sessions, sales pitches, student feedback and experiences, and marketing materials.</p>

13:37   13:52	<b>Lessons From the Pandemic for SA Programs</b>  Swenson, Tamara Osaka Jogakuin University	The last three years brought major changes to international study abroad (SA) programs. Online platforms allowed Osaka Jogakuin University & College (OJU/OJC) to continue international programs with partners in East Asia and add new programs with students in Palestine, Egypt, Lebanon, and Libya. While we sent students on overseas study abroad programs in summer 2022, the pandemic created new avenues for international connections. Post-pandemic, OJU/OJC intends to resume traditional SA programs and maintain online programs as these connect students in Japan to those precluded by cost or safety concerns. The success of the online programs contributed to OJU/OJC's ranking as third for international programs in Japan for 2022. In short, while the pandemic created problems it also opened opportunities. These will be discussed.
13:55   14:10	<b>The impact of online study abroad program on students' WTC</b>  Ujitani, Eiko Nagoya University of Foreign Studies	It is believed that study abroad experience would improve students' intercultural competence, but research about the impact of online study abroad is scarce. This presentation will introduce a 10-day online study abroad program for 11 English majoring students and explore its impact on their intercultural competence. The data were collected from pre- and post-surveys regarding their Willingness to Communicate, their final reflection reports and interviews with three students. The result showed that the students' willingness to communicate in English increased. In this presentation, possible program features for improving their communicative competence will be also discussed.
14:10	Closing: Nagashima, Lyndell	

