Designing a Global Engagement Research Project

Who: Who do you plan to do research on or with? Is the faculty mentor aware of your research project goals and are they committed to mentoring you? Is it legal in the country you are planning to hold your research in to do interviews or survey's? Are there topics in the country where you will be studying that are taboo to research or openly discuss?

What: What would you like to research? Are you interested in pairing your major with a topic specific to the country you are staying? Are you hoping to use your research question to dive deeper into the culture? Would you like your research question to be relevant to any post-baccalaureate education? What are some interesting differences between United States culture and that of the one you will be studying? What are the interesting similarities?

Where: Will you research take place in or out of the classroom? Students in the past have focused just on data found in libraries and databases, but they have also interviewed locals, professors, and professionals. Will you need to do any pre or post trip research to fulfill your research goal?

How: What will you use to measure your finding? This measurement tool can be a survey instrument, a former study, using a statistical formula. Measuring your findings may also be conducted by comparing what you found to other facts that exist.

When: What is your timeline for completing the research project? Will you need to design your experiment or survey instrument before you depart? Will the area you are traveling to have access to databases or reliable internet? Or will you need internet? Do you plan to give yourself an adjustment period before returning or starting your research project? Will you need to do any additional research or analysis after returning home?

Why: Why do you want to pursue doing research abroad or your topic? Why is the research important to society or to your academic portfolio?

Helpful links for designing a research project

Forming a research question: https://writingcenter.gmu.edu/guides/how-to-write-a-research-question

How to create a survey: https://www.qualtrics.com/blog/10-tips-for-building-effective-surveys/

IRB: https://www.usi.edu/ospra/institutional-review-board-irb/

Citing Sources: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html