Disability Driving Innovation

Building Accessibility into Our Design Thinking
Today’s Session

- Introductions
- Principles of Universal Design & Resources
- CIEE Alum Experience
- Setting Goals for Access
- Your Best Practices
- Q&A
Who Are We?

- Abigail Lehner, alum of University of New Hampshire & CIEE
- Ashley Holben, Mobility International USA (MIUSA)
- Susan Sygall, Mobility International USA (MIUSA)
- Morgan Reiss, CIEE Sevilla
Who Are You?

- University/College?
- International education organization?
- Familiar with Universal Design/Universal Design for Learning?
- Experience working with disability and education abroad?
What is Universal Design?

Is the design and composition of an environment so that it can be:

- accessed,
- understood and
- used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability, or disability.

An environment (or any building, product, or service in that environment) should be:

- designed to meet the needs of all people who wish to use it.
- accessible, usable, convenient and a pleasure to use
Universal Design

Principle 1: Equitable Use

- The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.
Universal Design (7 Principles)

Principle 2: Flexibility in Use

- The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
Universal Design

Principle 3: Simple and Intuitive Use

- Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user’s experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.
Universal Design

Principle 4: Perceptible Information

- The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user’s sensory abilities.
Universal Design

Principle 5: Tolerance for Error

- The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.
Universal Design

Principle 6: Low Physical Effort

- The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.
Universal Design

Principle 7: Size and Space for Approach and Use

- Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user’s body size, poster or mobility.
Universal Design for Learning

Principle 1: Multiple Means of Representation

- Present information and content in different ways

Principle 2: Multiple Means of Action and Expression

- Differentiate the ways that students can express what they know

Principle 3: Multiple Means of Engagement

- Stimulate interest and motivation for learning
Why do we care about UD in Study Abroad?
Disability-Focused Programs

- **CSUN, Gallaudet University** and more - Deaf/hard of hearing
- **Landmark College** - Learning disabilities, ADHD, & autism spectrum
- **Western Carolina University** - Intellectual disabilities
- **The Amandla Project** - Mobility disabilities
- **MIUSA Exchange Programs** - Cross-disability
What Are Some Ways to Incorporate UD into International Exchange?
10 Ways to Incorporate UD into International Exchange (1 out of 2)

1. Train staff and volunteers
2. Give lists of accepted participants
3. Create essential requirements
4. Set up more housing options
5. Permit early arrival options
10 Ways to Incorporate UD into International Exchange (2 out of 2)

6. Offer group insurance coverage
7. Connect to local resources
8. Set up academic options
9. Build in funding supports
10. Check in regularly
Resources

- 10 Steps to a Universally Designed Exchange Program - [www.miusa.org/resource/tipsheet/prepandrefordiversity](www.miusa.org/resource/tipsheet/prepandrefordiversity)

- Universal Design and Study Abroad (Soneson & Cordano) - [https://tinyurl.com/yaypzenw](https://tinyurl.com/yaypzenw)

- Applying Universal Design for Learning to Study Abroad Programs (Lillie) - [https://digitalcollections.sit.edu/capstones/3061/](https://digitalcollections.sit.edu/capstones/3061/)

- Champions for Inclusion AWAY Journal - [www.miusa.org/champions](www.miusa.org/champions)
Tales from a CIEE Alum: Abby Lehner

CIEE Accessibility
Tales from a CIEE Alum: Abby Lehner

Wheelchair Horror Stories

First Day Frights
Stairs are the Enemy

Positive Differences from the USA

Infrastructure
Public Transportation
Tales from a CIEE Alum: Abby Lehner

“Helping” is a universal language
Designing for Access
What can I do?

Short-term:

Long-term:
Q&A

Thank you!

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