Leveraging Technology for Accessibility: Study Abroad for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Students

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Across the Spectrum

DEAF

Blind  Disabled  Hard of Hearing  Late-Deafened

Signing  Cued-Speech  Non-Signing  Oral  Multi-Lingual
PSA:

GLOBAL DEAFHOOD

UNIVERSAL SIGN LANGUAGE DOES NOT EXIST. MANY DEAF PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW OR USE ASL (AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE)
State of study abroad for deaf/hoh students

- ADA Applicability is confusing and limited
- Few deaf-accessible or ASL-based programs
- Majority of study abroad providers require students to bear burden of costs for interpretation
- Formal education abroad opportunities inaccessible for many students with sensory disabilities
Siena Deaf Studies Program

“Meet new people”
## Leveraging Resources at Home

- MIUSA
- Access Abroad at University of Minnesota
- VR Offices
- Host Universities/Partners
- Home Universities
- Emergency Funds
- Gilman, Fund for Education Abroad, etc.

### Hearing Disabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classroom</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Preferred</th>
<th>Not Needed</th>
<th>List Details</th>
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<td>Note-taking services</td>
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<td>Sign language interpreters in one-on-one situations</td>
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<td>Sign language interpreters in group settings</td>
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<td>Language used (American Sign Language, PSE, other) (specify)</td>
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<td>Induction loops or similar technologies</td>
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<td>Captioned videos</td>
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<td>Real-time translation/captioning</td>
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<td>TTY (telephone for deaf users)</td>
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<td>Volume control for telephone</td>
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<th>Housing</th>
<th>Essential</th>
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<td>Voice alert systems for telephone, door bell, and fire alarm</td>
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<td>Volume control for telephone</td>
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<td>Captioned television</td>
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Important of Cultural Awareness

- Laws in other countries (ex: UK and EU generally)
- Cultural awareness in other countries
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Tips for teaching deaf/hoh
- Deaf Space
Scenarios (some guiding points)

No right or wrong answers
We’re all learning how to better serve deaf and hard of hearing students

Share your knowledge with your group
What would you do? What steps would you take?

We all have different resources at our disposal
Some of us work for large universities, some of us work for small colleges. Some of us work for public institutions, others private. It’s important to acknowledge that our access to resources (and knowledge) informs how we can help our students.
Scenarios (15 minutes)

Scenario 1: You are a study abroad advisor at a large public university. A deaf student who primarily uses American Sign Language (and interpreters in the classroom in the US) comes to your office to ask about programs they would be able to participate in.

Scenario 2: You are the director of the study abroad office at a private liberal arts college. One of your advisors comes to you to tell you that a deaf student would like to go on an institution-led faculty study abroad program.

Scenario 3: You are the program coordinator for a large third-party study abroad provider. You have a deaf student interested in a program in Asia, but you think England (as a country) is a more accessible option.
Steps and Advice for Advisors

- Embrace a culture of “yes”
- Advisors must be the advocates
- Seek programs that work for deaf/hoh students
- Demand more from your program providers
- Setup emergency or built-in funds at your universities for accommodations
“Accessibility aims to fill in the gaps left by exclusionary design practices, inclusive design aims to surpass conventional definitions and change standards of practice.”
From Theory to Practice

Gallaudet Short Term - Faculty Led (Comparative Access on Deaf Led Programs)

India
Diverse Needs; internal resource sharing

Costa Rica
Local Deaf engagement/inclusion; multilingual access

International Internship/Study 2011 (Emerging Independently on Hearing Frontier)

South Korea (2011)
Lack of sufficient disability awareness; working through the obstacles.

English Language Teaching (Deaf Educators Educating Deaf)

China - BUU
Program Planning ← Leveraging community resources to include, diversify and uplift students, educators, administrators and communities.

Indonesia Program (International Program Building: “Nothing About Us, Without Us”)

Indonesia - Deaf Leadership and Inclusion
Letting Deaf lead. Local Experts; mutual information sharing; multilateral relationship building.

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Technological Resources

“There’s an APP for that!”

—a&ava, YouTube, Glide, big

Convo, Facebook, WhatsApp

Make It Big

Show large text on your screen

An Trinh

Make It Big

4.9, 95 Ratings

Free
Limits of Technology

COMMUNICATION

CULTURE

ACCESSIBILITY
More Resources

GLOBAL DEAF ORGANIZATIONS
- National Association of the Deaf
- World Federation of the Deaf
- Discovering Deaf Worlds

DEAF TRAVEL AUTHORITY
- Seek the World
- Deafinitely Wanderlust
- Nomadic Deaf

THE FUTURE OF DEAF ED ABROAD?
- Intersign

DEAF TRAVEL AGENCIES
- Hands on Travel
- Bali Deaf Guide
- Travel Agency
- Deaf Land & Sea
Resources you can use!
Questions?