Initial Report

Last Modified: 01/28/2014

1. Please rate pre-departure program preparation (selection process, information sessions or orientations…)

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| # | Answer | Min Value | Max Value | Average Value | Standard Deviation | Responses |
| 1 | Pre-departure preparation | 3.50 | 5.00 | 4.64 | 0.63 | 7 |

2. Comments about pre-departure preparation?

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| Text Response |
| Pre-departure preparation was very well organized. I liked the fact that we met up at least 2-3 times prior to our departure to discuss the program. |
| The meetings furthered my understanding of objectives, goals, participation, and preparation for the course. Since it was the pilot, there were some cliches but there would have been no way to anticipate them. |
| The selection process was very fair. Letters of recommendation and an essay gives the faculty a good sense of who would benefit the most from attending this trip. We attended effective meetings prior to the trip which allowed us to plan as well as prepare for the experience. |
| I think for those in the group who have never left the country, a short briefing about appropriate and professional attitudes and demeanors while representing our school, California, and Americans in general would have been helpful. |
| We were organized and prepared but would have enjoyed more discussion about what our program would consist of. Also more preparation of activities outside of the university. |
| Well, first of all, I'm guessing a 5 is the best score in the evaluation? |
| I feel that we had a sufficient number of meetings prior to this trip however I would have preferred to know the times of the meetings at least 2 weeks ahead because of work obligations. |

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| Statistic | Value |
| Total Responses | 7 |

3. Please rate the performance of the host institution and/or contracted agency.

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| # | Answer | Min Value | Max Value | Average Value | Standard Deviation | Responses |
| 1 | Host institution or contracted agency | 4.50 | 5.00 | 4.90 | 0.19 | 7 |

4. Please rate the in-country transportation arrangements (bus, train, plane…)

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| # | Answer | Min Value | Max Value | Average Value | Standard Deviation | Responses |
| 1 | In-country transportation | 4.00 | 5.00 | 4.59 | 0.52 | 7 |

5. Comments about host institution and/or contracted agency?

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| Text Response |
| Trinity College was extremely welcoming. The nursing program at the university were well organized considering this was the first time they had American nursing students. Lectures were on time and educational and they made a successful effort to make the campus our home for 2 weeks. |
| ABSOLUTELY fabulous. I will be completely honest and say that the amount of preparation that Trinity College Dublin put into my education far exceeded my expectations. Every professor designed lectures specifically for us, unlike the professors I pay at CSUCI who will just post the powerpoint presentations straight from the book's publisher. They thoroughly contributed to my education. They were dedicated to my experience and learning process. |
| The Trinity Capital Hotel was an extraordinary place to stay at. The accommodations were great, having a complimentary breakfast every day was helpful for those of us on a budget. I was very satisfied with the hotel. Trinity College Dublin was extremely welcoming of all of us. Their lecturers were excellent and very compassionate, and our two days at St. James's Hospital were great as well. |
| Our Irish hosts were absolutely wonderful. They were welcoming, incredibly prepared, and very knowledgeable. We all felt there was an immediate sense of mutual respect. |
| They were very organized and welcoming |
| Host institution was outstanding, I felt like we got the VIP treatment. Only complaint was that we couldn't utilize their wi-fi network (they did not grant us guest access), so we could not work on assignments while on campus. |
| Trinity College Dublin is an excellent partner to keep for study abroad programs. The staff was informative, passionate, punctual, welcoming, and I enjoyed every minute that I spent in their lecture halls. |

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| Statistic | Value |
| Total Responses | 7 |

6. Please rate the housing arrangements (quality, location, safety, cleanliness…)

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| # | Answer | Min Value | Max Value | Average Value | Standard Deviation | Responses |
| 1 | Housing arrangements | 4.60 | 5.00 | 4.94 | 0.15 | 7 |

7. Comments about housing arrangements?

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| Text Response |
| Hotel was nice and accommodating. There was Wifi, a place to eat and meet up for post-conference. Thumbs up all around. |
| I have never stayed at such a well accommodating establishment. It was clean, safe and friendly. They allowed us to print a few forms since we did not have access to a printer. All the staff at Trinity Capital Hotel were friendly and personable. They made me feel at home. |
| Again, Trinity Capital Hotel was an amazing place to stay at. The location was perfect – right by where we needed to be in Dublin. It was a safe area, and seemed to be very clean. The complimentary breakfast allowed us to save some money in our budget. |
| More than we expected. Perfect location. Very nice accommodations. |
| The hotel was really nice and the only recommendation would be to book a suit style room where meals could be prepared. |
| Awesome, awesome, awesome. Great hotel. |
| The Trinity Capital hotel was extremely nice! Its location could not have been more convenient, it was comfortable, had free wifi, and the staff were more accomodating. |

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| Statistic | Value |
| Total Responses | 7 |

8. Comments about in-country transportation?

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| Text Response |
| Since we were located in the heart of city center, it was easy to navigate by foot or train if needed. Dr. Hunter was so organized and provided us with directions and means to get to and from the airports. |
| For the most part, we walked to our destinations, as Trinity Capital Hotel was very close to Trinity College Dublin, the school of nursing and midwifery building, as well as St. James's Hospital. We took a bus to Northern Ireland which was cost-effective and convenient. |
| Very organized. |
| Transportation was easily arranged from the airport to hotel. There was an easily accessible tram and walking was our main mode of transport. |
| Transportation was great all around, except for the bus driver coming back from Belfast. He was speeding and appeared to be falling asleep at the wheel, and many of the students were concerned about it. |
| The plane was a typical international flight, the bus we took up to Bellfast was cheap, and uncomfortable and I do not recommend using them in the future. |

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| Statistic | Value |
| Total Responses | 6 |

9. Please rate the student group (in terms of group dynamics, maturity, cross-cultural sensitivity…)

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| # | Answer | Min Value | Max Value | Average Value | Standard Deviation | Responses |
| 1 | Group | 2.00 | 5.00 | 4.26 | 1.07 | 7 |

10. Comments about the group?

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| Text Response |
| The group worked well with one another. 10 people on the trip was a good amount of people. |
| Many of them lacked the courtesy I expected. Maybe it was because of their age that they lacked the self awareness. Maybe because they are upper middle class and feel entitled to their behavior at home. I was discouraged and frustrated with some of their behavior regularly. I would advise a class on etiquette in a big city for future students. |
| Since 8 of us are in the same cohort, it was extremely easy to get along with everyone. I feel that as nursing students, we are all very mature and cultural sensitive to begin with. This experience was incredible, partly due to the people that attended. |
| It was a great mix of senior and junior nursing students. We all got along very well and had a great experience together. |
| I felt like group dynamics improved over the course of the trip. I was one of the two juniors, so it definitely felt like there were some differences from the seniors initially. But over time, we all became friendlier with each other. |
| Considering that I was one of the only two juniors on this trip, I had a fantastic time with the seniors. Nursing students, no matter what level you are at all share a similar light-hearted humor and teamwork mentality and we were a great team. |

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| Statistic | Value |
| Total Responses | 6 |

11. Please rate how health and safety issues were handled during the trip

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| # | Answer | Min Value | Max Value | Average Value | Standard Deviation | Responses |
| 1 | Health and safety | 4.00 | 5.00 | 4.86 | 0.38 | 7 |

12. Comments about health and safety?

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| Text Response |
| I don't think we had any health issues on our trip other than jetlag. Dr. Hunter and the professors at Trinity were compassionate and understanding about our jetlag and fatigue but it didn't last long. |
| Throughout this trip, I felt extremely safe. The location in Dublin where we were mainly located was a nice area. We were instructed about less-safe areas of Dublin that it would be best to stay away from. |
| The Irish staff as well as Pauline were diligent in reminding us to protect our belongings and stay together. Pauline was always available by phone and had an open door policy in the hotel if anything was needed. We were told which locations to avoid. I felt completely safe. |
| Felt very safe and well looked after. There was little down time so exhaustion was a factor. |
| I felt healthy and safe the whole time I was there. |
| I did become ill at one point during the trip and felt very nauseas. The Trinity staff was very accomodating and I know I would have been excused if my illness had persisted. I felt very safe and secure knowing that if I were to become ill I had nine others, as well as an instructor, that would all keep tabs on me and would make sure I received the necessary healthcare if needed. |

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| Statistic | Value |
| Total Responses | 6 |

13. 1.      Please describe key positives and reflect on reasons for the success.

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| Text Response |
| Program was well organized and this was due to the staff at Trinity College. The faculty had this planned out for months and they stuck to the schedule. This allowed us students to learn as much content as we could. Their punctuality (professors were NEVER late) the first all the way to the last day made me highly respect them. The faculty gave us as much opportunity as they could to let us learn about their healthcare (from theory all the way to observation in the clinical setting). Our group's desire to learn impressed Trinity's staff so they were willing to bend over backwards to get us as much learning experience as possible. |
| The professors were so well prepared and experts in their field. It was obvious that they all were invested in our experience and learning. Dr. Hunter did a wonderful job trying to accommodate preferences and reminded them that they were there to learn. |
| This trip was well planned out by both the CI Nursing faculty (especially Dr. Hunter), as well as the staff at TCD in Ireland. Our days were very well planned out everyday, Monday-Friday from 0900-1600. I appreciated the schedule that highlighted all aspects of the Irish healthcare system. |
| Overall, this was an incredible learning experience. The lessons learned from lecture, hands on, observations, and experiences will be carried with me throughout my personal and professional practices. |
| Trinity university was an amazing host and were very organized. It was great to interact with other students and their perspectives were very interesting. |
| Positives include understanding nursing from a different cultural perspective, actually visiting the clinical setting to observe, and meeting many Irish citizens who were happy to tell us about their culture and healthcare. |
| All nursing students are taught cultural diversity from our textbooks but there is a big difference when you go to the other side of the world and see it in person. The Irish people are innately kind and good-hearted and are satisfied with their healthcare despite its downfalls that we as Americans see. Going to Ireland did not just open my eyes to other cultures and people but also inspired a lot of self-reflection. I discovered that my passion is psych nursing and my goal is now directed toward that. It is because of what I saw and the inspiring lectures that I recieved that I discovered what area of nursing is meant for me. While I was in Ireland I didn't just gain new perspectives, I was exposed to new concepts that I didn't even think were possible such as nursing being so involved in government. The students who go on this trip will go home inspired to advocate for nursing power in government without a doubt! I would like to also comment on the passionate lecturing of Trinity's professors. All professors are grounded in some sort of research associated with their area of nurising and it is because of this that I found them so inspiring. They know their subject thoroughly and lectured brilliantly. |

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| Statistic | Value |
| Total Responses | 7 |

14. 2.      What did you learn on this program that you couldn’t learn at Channel Islands?

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| Text Response |
| Healthcare from another culture's perspective. In order to really learn about another culture's healthcare, one needs to interact with a multidisciplinary team that has worked/studied in that area of field in Ireland. Also, I was able to learn about how others viewed American healthcare. |
| Some of my professors obviously prepare for lectures and my learning, however, there are not very many of them compared to the 2 weeks I spent at Trinity. I learned about person-centered care, being non-judgmental and more compassionate examples of care that have not been emphasized enough at CSUCI. I also learned about ways I can be a better nurse through the lectures on mental health that were lacking from the 5 weeks I spent on psych nursing here. |
| We learned so much about the Irish healthcare system, as well as other global health issues that we simply could not learn at CSUCI. We were lectured about the healthcare system on nursing experts from Ireland that were published, and have helped to change nursing and healthcare policy there. |
| We learned about cultural differences in a way that could never be learned from a textbook. I've developed a new found respect for the health system in the United States. The debate we had to prepare for at the end of the course was an amazing learning experience that drew upon the knowledge we had acquired in the previous 2 weeks. |
| Being immersed in their style of education as well as health care gave me an experience that can not be recreated here. |
| Gaining insight about another culture's health system and beliefs. I've taken Medical Anthropology here at CI, but it's all just words on paper until you actually see and experience another nation's culture. |
| I was truly able to grasp that healthcare is not the same worldwide: how we access it, what technology we can provide, how its staffed, the education of its professionals, patient experience is all very different. I also learned about intellectual disability nursing, a subject not discussed thoroughly enough in school. |

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| Statistic | Value |
| Total Responses | 7 |

15. 3.      What do you know now that you wish you’d known before you went?

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| Text Response |
| Dublin isn't really all that cold. |
| I would not be able to print articles for research |
| That the debate at the end of the class would be such a "big deal." I would have prepared more for it before hand, in order to allow more free time when we were not in class. |
| Having traveled a lot, i can't think of anyway i could have prepared differently. I felt very prepared for this trip, having done quite a bit of research on the different health care systems prior. |
| Wish I was better informed about the current weather and the cost of food in Ireland. |
| Perhaps just a disclaimer on how much money to bring; luckily, I had enough to feed myself and get a few souvenirs, but it would be good to advise students to bring enough money. Otherwise, I feel like I was very prepared after the information sessions and doing personal research. |
| I wish I had known more about Irish history! I had no idea that there was northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and that they were so incredibly different. |

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| Statistic | Value |
| Total Responses | 7 |

16. 4.      What suggestions would you provide the faculty director for revisions that would produce a better international experience for future groups?

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| Text Response |
| Allow the group 1-2 FULL days of rest/recovery before going to class. We arrived in Dublin on Sunday around 1030 and had to wake up early the next day for a 0900 lecture. That did not give the group enough time to settle into the place and have a decent night of sleep. If we had left for Dublin on Friday and arrived on Saturday, we would have been in a much better position rather than trying to play catch up with sleep. |
| Find a youtube video on how to be responsible and responsive in a foreign country. Simple tips like don't hog the sidewalk or don't complain loudly in an airport surrounded by the people of the country you just visited. |
| Possibly letting us go into other hospitals that have clinical placements through TCD, such as their children's, maternity, or mental health hospitals. |
| Although the course work is heavy, i understand that the course is 3 credits and workload must represent that. I learned an immense amount conducting the literature reviews on my topic. The final group project, is worth 40% of the grade, and we each wrote a section. I understand that each student works differently, at a different pace, and with a different writing style. But, there is added stress, on type-A nursing students like me, to only have 10% control over 40% of my grade. I understand that often research is a group project, but normally that allows for months of editing and proofreading. In the past with group projects, i have found that the smaller the group, the better it works. Having 10 in a group, especially when the group spans two cohorts and the project has carried over into a newly starting semester, is quite overwhelming. The debate, although not a part of the grade, was a great learning experience. Perhaps all that research and preparation could also be accounted for in the over all grade. |
| Ensure that the students would have more free time to get immersed in the culture. Allow more time for rest and relaxation. |
| I cannot think of any at this time. |
| I would advise a mini prep course in Irish history. I would also think it would be a great opporunity for students to see a mental health hospital in Ireland, as well as a midwifery hospital. |

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| Statistic | Value |
| Total Responses | 7 |

17. 5.      Please comment on your faculty director/s (organization, leadership, preparedness, knowledge of the country, helpfulness…)

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| Text Response |
| Dr. Hunter was very organized with the program. She informed us about the day's agenda the night before in order to let us know what to expect. It also helped that she's from Ireland, so she gave us great tips when it came to sightseeing and eating out. She also knew about Ireland's healthcare, so whatever was not made clear to us she helped clear it up. The one thing I give her a lot of credit for is trying to get the group to experience/see as much of Ireland as we could in a short period of time. If there was an opportunity to see/experience something new she would try to work with our schedule. |
| Dr. Hunter was well organized and prepared for our experience. She truly invested a lot of her personal time to ensure that we got the most out of the experience. She aided us in whatever we needed whether it where to look for research, how to conduct fieldwork, or how to get out of the city if we wanted to travel on our day off. |
| Dr. Hunter was very organized as well as helpful through the entire process. She planned everything wonderfully, and was a great resource during the class. She has a great outlook from both perspectives – having worked both in Northern Ireland as well as in the US. |
| Pauline went above and beyond. We all thought that as the first group, we would encounter various hurdles and delays, but that was not the case. The program ran seamlessly. It was very obvious that Pauline and Naomi Elliot put months of hard work into the coordination of this project, and I am so grateful for the opportunity. Having Pauline as the director, but also an Irish national with a personal history in attending school and conducting research in Ireland gave credibility to her knowledge of the country and the program. |
| Professor Pauline was a great instructor. Her knowledge of Ireland was extremely helpful. She was well organized and prepared. Her connections in Ireland made our experience that more special. |
| Dr. Hunter was extraordinary; her knowledge of the country, university, and politics allowed us to see more and meet more people than I thought possible. She is a fantastic leader who is smart and knows how to have fun at the same time. |
| Dr. Hunter is one of the kindess people I have met in my life. She can see things in students that we dont see in ourselves and motivates us to push ourselves. She was very understanding and it was evident that she put hundreds of hours into preparing this trip for us. It would be an absolute shame if she were not able to take another group out to Ireland because I have no doubt that their experiences will impact their nursing careers for the better. |

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| Statistic | Value |
| Total Responses | 7 |

18. 6.      Please comment on the academic quality of the program (content, learning objectives, assignments, feedback, evaluation…)

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| Text Response |
| The academic quality of the program was set high, and I'm glad. At Trinity we had lecture from 0900-1500 M-F. Every day we were lectured by different professors in the nursing program who were published. They were very knowledgeable in their subject and I was impressed by how organized and punctual they were. Their powerpoints were specifically made just for us, so you could tell they put a lot of effort into this program. The teaching style was a bit different than back at CI (a lot more interaction b/t student and professor), but I enjoyed it. At the end we were required to do a debate regarding healthcare and this put most of us out of our comfort zone. Debates are not common in our nursing program, but at Trinity it is. This required us students to use our critical thinking skills and use as much resource available in order to gather quality research to back our position. The program met all of the learning objectives. |
| Again, it far exceeded my expectations. I learned invaluable lessons and content that will undoubtedly contribute to me being a better nurse and person. I knew that it would be an enlightening experience but this trip has changed me for the better. Being immersed in a different culture has opened my eyes to a new world and I am eternally grateful. |
| Trinity College Dublin has an incredible nursing program. It is the "top" program in the country, and it is easy to see why. The content was very informational and helpful, the learning objectives were clearly stated and understandable, the assignments were relative to the content, the professors give great feedback when asked questions, and the TCD faculty asked for evaluations from us in order to improve their program as well. |
| The lectures were amazing. Every lecturer had prepared their own slides for content specific for international students. I gave a brief feedback about the various assignments in an earlier section. |
| The content of the program was very relevant. The assignments were flexible and contained relevant learning objectives. |
| Phenomenal. The Irish nursing instructors were on top of their game, and they gave us a very comprehensive rundown of Irish nursing and healthcare services in general. I learned much through them, and I learned even more when completing our research projects and personal papers. By the end of the two weeks I had become very familiar with their healthcare system, and could easily draw comparisons between Ireland and the United States in that regard. |
| There is quite a bit of work: daily journals, a lengthy independent interest project, and a group research paper. The work was not easy and took up much more time than I anticipated. Our days in Ireland were very planned out leaving us with free time from about 4 to the time we fell asleep (often at 8pm) and because we wanted to see Irish culture we were given an extended period of time to work on our papers when we got back to the States which I was very thankful for. Trinity's curriculum was structured and the lectures were delivered passionately and always in a timely manner. The debate was the highlight of this trip from an academic standpoint because we had to do intense preparation learning as much as we could about the differences between the United States and Ireland's healthcare. Debate is not a form of learning we do in CSUCI nursing program and I found it a great tool that should be implemented into our program. |

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| Statistic | Value |
| Total Responses | 7 |

19. 7.      Other comments:

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| Text Response |
| The trip to Ireland was an amazing experience. Although it was only 2 weeks, I've learned so much about the Irish healthcare and culture. I felt the positive learning environment in both the school and in the hospital allowed us students to exchange/share knowledge with the professors and hospital faculty. Meeting the nursing director at St. James's hospital and the health minister up in Belfast was a great opportunity also. |
| I am sure that if Dr. Hunter witnessed the lack of appropriate behavior she would have intervened. I attempted to inform them of their lack of self awareness but they were young and didn't even see it. I guess that is the definition of lack of self awareness in some ways. I could not imagine a bigger group. |
| This was one of the most incredible experiences of my life. Learning about the Irish healthcare system, and how their medical professionals work, will definitely improve my practice as a registered nurse in the US. Dr. Hunter did an excellent job planning this trip, and for that I am forever grateful. One comment to I do have to improve this trip would be possibly depart a couple days earlier in order to acclimate to the time difference better so the class won't be as exhausting. |
| Once again, I'm completely grateful for the opportunity. The experience was amazing. Thanks again to Pauline and our Irish counterparts at Trinity College. The effort was very noticed and very appreciated. |
| I recommend that all nursing students take this trip if they get the chance. |
| 1). This study abroad experience changed my nursing career goals. 2).It instilled a drive in me to conduct my own nursing research one day in regards to mental health. 3). The kindness and empathy that Irish nurses innately possess was inspiring. 4). I learned and EXPERIENCED another form of healthcare, a socialized type of healthcare that our country is moving towards: seeing the positives and negatives. 5). Most importantly: I cannot thank Dr. Hunter, CSUCI, and Trinity College Dublin School of Nursing enough. This study abroad experience is one I will never forget. |

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| Statistic | Value |
| Total Responses | 6 |