

CONSENT FORM FOR FOCUS GROUP

Doctoral Research on Study Abroad by American undergraduates in South Africa University of South Africa

1. What is the aim of the study? The aim of the study is to learn more about the reasons why American undergraduates choose to study abroad in South Africa as well as define their experiences while there. The ultimate aim is to see in what ways more students could be attracted to the study in South Africa experience.

2. How was I chosen? Interviews will take place with approximately 7 study abroad professionals. You were chosen as you had indicated interest in attending the focus group and being part of the interviewed panel.

3. What will be involved in participating? There is one panel interview scheduled. The interview will last approximately 1-2 hours. I will tape the interview and make transcriptions from the tapes.

4. Who will know what I say? Only the researcher, Roberta James Paola will have access to your tapes and transcripts.

5. What risks and benefits are associated with participation? I do not foresee any risks to you other than a possible breach of confidentiality. To protect against that risk I will ensure that your tapes and transcripts are held in safekeeping at my residence in Durban, South Africa. Your name will not appear in the transcripts. In any publication or public statement based on the study, all names, occupations, or other potentially identifying information will be omitted or changed. Two years after the end of the study the tapes will be destroyed. Sometimes people find participating in an interview to be beneficial insofar as it gives them a chance to talk about things that matter to them.

6. What are my rights as a respondent? You may ask any questions regarding the research, and they will be answered fully. You may withdraw from the study at any time. Your participation is voluntary.

7. What will be published? I will make my findings known through publication of a Doctoral Thesis through the University of South Africa. I anticipate publishing two or three article-length reports that will appear in professional journals or as book chapters.

8. If I want more information, whom can I contact about the study? This study has been approved by the University of South Africa. For more information you may contact:

Roberta James Paola, 8 Mc Mahon Avenue, Durban North, South Africa, 4051.
Phone: 011 27 31 5638043 (home) 011 27 31 3057600 ex. 216 (work)
Email: paolarj@state.gov OR usisdbn@iafrica.com

Roberta James Paola, Doctoral Candidate
Date:

Signature of Participant
Date:

CONSENT FORM FOR STUDENT PARTICIPANTS
Doctoral Research on Study Abroad by American Undergraduates in South Africa
University of South Africa

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2. How was I chosen? Interviews will take place with approximately 6 American undergraduates who choose to study abroad in South Africa. You were chosen as you indicated that you had an interest in doing so.

3. What will be involved in participating? There will be three 90-minute interviews conducted at a mutually convenient venue. The interviews will take place upon arrival, half-way through the program and at the program's conclusion. I will tape the interview and make transcriptions from the tapes.

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Roberta James Paola, Doctoral Candidate
Date:

Student Participant
Date:

APPENDIX B-1

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION TO STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

Hello,

My name is Roberta Paola and I am the Educational Adviser at the U.S. Consulate in Durban South Africa. You are receiving this message as you have indicated that you are going to be studying abroad in Durban, South Africa soon and your study abroad organization has kindly assisted me in contacting you.

I am in the middle of Doctoral research on the experiences of American undergraduates who chose to study abroad in South Africa. As such, I am looking for students who would be willing to discuss their experiences during their study abroad program with me.

The discussions will take place at three intervals; upon arrival, half way through the program and at the conclusion of the program. Each interview will take approximately 90 minutes and I promise to bake you chocolate chip cookies!

If you are interested, could you please fill in the attached bio data sheet and send it back to me as soon as possible to:

usisdbn@iafrica.com

or

paolarj@state.gov

All of the information you provide now and at a later date will be coded to protect your privacy. Confidentiality will be protected at all times. Should you decide to take part, a letter of outlining the steps taken to protect your privacy and confidentiality will be sent to you.

I think you'll enjoy it!

Take care,

Roberta Paola

APPENDIX B-2

BIOGRAPHICAL AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

Instructions: Please answer as fully as possible, please be honest – don't say what you think I might want to hear.

1. Name:
2. State of legal residence:
3. Name and location of current university:
4. Name of the South African university at which you will be studying:
5. Your current level of study (i.e. junior, senior, etc.):
6. Major:
7. Subjects you plan on studying in South Africa:
8. Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy):
9. Gender:
10. Ethnic background (if multi-ethnic, please state which ethnicities):
11. Date of arrival in South Africa:
12. Expected date of departure from South Africa:
13. Are you a U.S. citizen? If not, what citizenship do you hold?
14. Have you ever traveled abroad before? If so, please list the countries to which you have traveled:
15. Are you the 1st in your immediate family to attend university?
16. Are you the 1st in your immediate family to study abroad?
17. Do you currently live on campus?
18. Do you currently live with your family while attending university?
19. Have you ever lived away from home, including university for a period of over six months?
20. What is your GPA?

21. Do you consider yourself knowledgeable on the subject of international affairs?

22. Do you belong to an international club on campus?

23. Have you done any research on South Africa?

24. Why did you choose to study abroad in South Africa?

25. What was your family's reaction to your decision, were they critical, worried, supportive?

26. What do you hope to experience during your study abroad program in South Africa?

APPENDIX C-1

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

First Interview

1. Background Information:
 - A. Place of birth
 - B. Size of town, city
 - C. Ethnic mix
 - D. Family, siblings
 - E. College, size, major, location
 - F. Friendships
 - G. Living Situations
 - H. Previous travel

2. Choice of university in South Africa:
 - A. Decision based on Academic or cultural interests
 - B. Decision based on language of instruction
 - C. Decision based on other friends/people coming to South Africa
 - D. Parental and friends reaction
 - E. Cost
 - F. Goal in coming to South Africa

3. Choice to study abroad:
 - A. Steps taken
 - B. Assistance from home institution
 - C. Pre-departure orientation

4. Arrival:
 - A. Orientation
 - B. Host country institution organization
 - C. Social and cultural experiences
 - D. Academic experiences
 - E. Dorm life
 - F. Pre-conceptions
 - G. Perceptions of Americans
 - H. Racial perceptions
 - I. Participation in on campus activities
 - J. Host family involvement
 - K. Travel within country
 - L. Concerns with health and safety
 - M. Gender differences

APPENDIX C-2

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

Second Interview

1. Academic experiences
 - A. Assistance from professors
 - B. Assistance from host institution administration
 - C. Expectations vs. reality
2. Cultural experiences
 - A. Specific incidences
 - B. Problems or differences
 - C. Level of adjustment into host culture
 - D. Opportunities to immerse
 - E. Expectations vs. reality
3. Experiences based on gender
 - A. Differences from home
 - B. Differences based on sexual orientation
 - C. Issues of interest
4. Achievement of goals as stated in bio data
 - A. Development of new areas
 - B. Attitude towards goals
5. Issues of health and safety
 - A. Specific incidents
 - B. Expectations vs. reality
6. View of other Americans on campus
 - A. Issues of immersion regarding other Americans
 - B. Attitudes based on nationality
7. View of experiences based on race
 - A. Being a minority
 - B. Being in the majority
8. Perception of the United States
9. Pre arrival perceptions vs. reality of perceptions in South Africa
10. Benefits to date
 - A. Academic
 - B. Cultural

C. Self defined

APPENDIX C-3

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

Third Interview

1. Development of friendships:
 - A. With whom?
 - B. Perceived duration of friendships
2. Extracurricular activities:
 - A. View of immersion due to activities
3. Perception of personal change.
4. Describe a typical day in the life:
 - A. Differences from home
5. Opinions of low level of participation in study-abroad programmes in South Africa by U.S. undergraduates.
6. Elaboration on reasons for studying abroad.
7. Expectations vs. reality:
 - A. Academic
 - B. Social
 - C. Cultural
 - D. Health and safety
8. Opinions on preparation for:
 - A. Academics
 - B. Cultural
 - C. Social
 - D. Health and safety
9. Recommendations for future American students coming to South Africa.
10. Benefits of the experience:
 - A. Academics
 - B. Cultural
 - C. Social
11. Experiences based on religion.
12. Opinions on habitat.
13. Sacrifices relating to study-abroad.
14. Views on under representation of U.S. students in South Africa.