

Bournemouth University
Centre for Excellence in Learning (CEL)

CEL Theme:

Employability, Work Based Learning and Professional Practice

CASE STUDY:

International Student Management Games

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Key Words:

Internationalisation, Student mobility, Sport management, Case-based learning, Group work, Intercultural learning

Case study synopsis:

Students from various countries and universities work in mixed teams of 4-5 students on sport management cases and have to produce a number of assignments over 3-4 days.

In comparison to other field trips, learning is action-based due to cultural diversity within teams and short time frames to complete tasks. Input on the case is provided through various means, but further research and self-managing time and material is key.

Group dynamics and engagement naturally encourage personal reflections on e.g. leadership, project management and self-perception. Social activities are part of the programmes and encourage making new friends and international contacts.

Final presentations are in front of the whole audience and are judged by the group of tutors and, if possible, experts from industry.

Participating in an international student game as a tutor is likewise beneficial as alternative teaching/learning methods and other student cohorts can be experienced. Also, getting to know colleagues from other universities and discussing matters of e.g. teaching, research and developments in different higher education systems helps to create and transfer new knowledge.

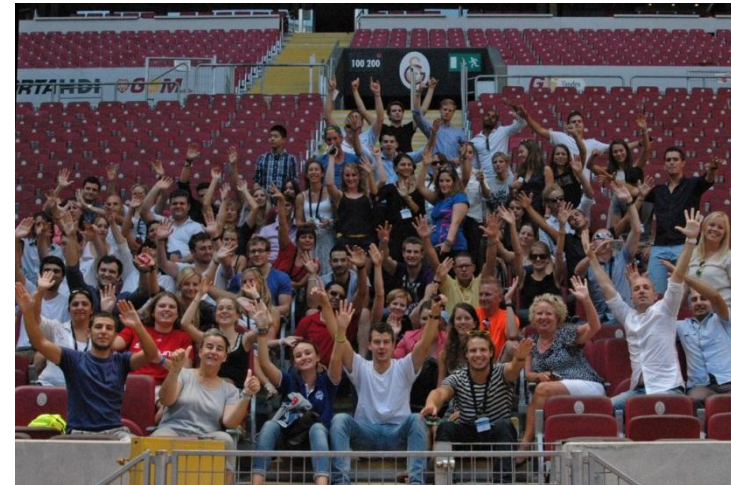
Background/Context/Problem being addressed:

The benefits of outbound (and inbound) internationalisation, both personal and professional, are well documented. Policies and programmes by e.g. the British Council, the European Union and other big funders reflect the increased focus on employability within internationalisation: how can we prepare graduates to become European and global professionals?

Especially – from a British perspective - since universities in central and northern Europe in particular already focus their students on the global job market. In comparison, UK students seem to have greater reservations to outward mobility (especially study exchange). Field trips, especially action-based ones, add to the narrative of internationalisation and help to embed the benefits of global engagement in the curriculum and university culture.

Student Activity:

Taking BU students to co-organised multi-day international sport student management games in Groningen/The Netherlands, Istanbul/Turkey, Cologne/Germany and Coventry/UK in 2013 and 2014.



Above: Part of the international student group during a venue visit in Istanbul.

Outcomes and benefits to the student:

Student reflections are provided in the material below (blog entries, videos).

Groningen 2013:

1) Sport students participate in international management game in The Netherlands co-organised by BU staff:

<http://microsites.bournemouth.ac.uk/tourism/2013/05/08/sport-students-participate-in-international-management-game-in-the-netherlands-co-organised-by-bu-staff/>

2) Sport students reflect on overseas activity and participation in international management game in The Netherlands:

<http://microsites.bournemouth.ac.uk/tourism/2013/06/05/sport-students-reflect-on-overseas-activity-and-participation-in-international-management-game-in-the-netherlands/>

3) Message from BU student Oliver Fulljames (Sport Management graduate 2014) on his experience:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AtxL6KumH0&feature=youtu.be>

Istanbul 2013

1) BU Sport students and academic succeed at European Association for Sport Management conference in Istanbul:

<http://microsites.bournemouth.ac.uk/tourism/2013/09/24/bu-sport-students-and-academic-succeed-at-european-association-for-sport-management-conference-in-istanbul/>

2) Students Reflect on Internationalisation Experience:

<http://microsites.bournemouth.ac.uk/sports/2013/10/21/students-reflect-on-internationalisation-experience/>

Below: Sports Management student in discussion with the NBA Europe Business Development Manager



3) Message from John Bryson (Sport Management graduate 2013) on his experience:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijXE5krts&feature=youtu.be>

Cologne 2014

Students from School of Tourism went to Germany:

<http://microsites.bournemouth.ac.uk/tourism/2014/04/22/students-from-school-of-tourism-went-to-germany/>

Coventry 2014

Sport Management Researcher and Students Create Impact on International Field:

<http://blogs.bournemouth.ac.uk/research/2014/09/17/sport-management-researcher-and-students-create-impact-on-international-field>



Above: Dr Tim Breitbarth, Senior Lecturer in Sport Management, with Professor Birol Cotuk, Dean Marmara University School of PE and Sport and Chair of the 21st EASM Conference, Istanbul/Turkey

Critical Reflections:

The effort involved in organising such trips should not be underestimated and preparing students/managing expectations of the students is important in order to create the best possible group and personal learning experience.

Recommendations:

A useful, if not necessary, basis in order to engage with such activities is an international network of partner universities and/or internationally well-connected members of staff.

It is possible to directly link the work and experience of students while being abroad to course assignments.

Feel welcome to approach myself and colleagues from the Sport Academic Group who attended international student games for further information and, possibly, if/how this or a related format can add to your delivery.