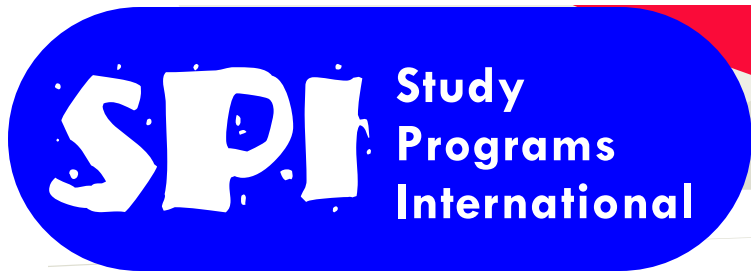


GO BEYOND YOUR BORDERS...



SCHOOL SAYS NO, WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T GO?



By Jeremy Goodwin

Every year parents contact us with the same question...
“Why have I not heard about college credit immersion for my kid?
Why didn't my child's teacher tell us about this in the fall?”

Post Sept. 11 has left us with many challenges and changes with regard to international travel experiences.

Although things are back in full swing and international travel is higher than ever before, administrators (*most of whom do not have language backgrounds*) are increasing the barriers of international education. As language teachers, we know that immersing students in a country where they speak the language is the only way to achieve true cultural and linguistic fluency.

Sadly many administrators and districts often instill fear in their teachers from encouraging any program where travel is involved. The school, naturally, does not want to be associated with anything that is outside their immediate control. Rather than fighting with our administrators or districts policies it is best to look for alternative ways to get the information to your parents and students.

WAYS TO ENCOURAGE STUDY ABROAD:

- Spread the Word with your personal resources: Personal Email, Personal Website, etc. This will make it clear that your program is not related to the school or district.
- Contact Parents Personally to let them know about Immersion Experiences.
- At Open House, encourage parents to participate in immersion programs - if they are interested they should contact you on your personal email.
- Have some of your most motivated students spread the word themselves.

I urge you more than ever to encourage language immersion study abroad to your students and colleagues. Find out directly from teachers who have made the switch from tours to immersion - there is literally a world of difference!

Contact us for a list of teacher references! info@spiabroad.com



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