

The Study Abroad Learning Outcome Project at the School of Global Studies and Collaboration (GSC): A Case Study of Japanese Undergraduate Students' Intercultural Competence Development.

Hiroyoshi Hiratsuka, Makoto Kobori, Sayaka Hashimoto

Abstract

A wide range of stakeholders across political and economic sectors in Japan has recognised the importance of preparing the next generation of professionals to build a bridge across cultures. Shaping the next generation to overcome cultural differences requires a study abroad program at the post-secondary level. However, this argument has remained anecdotal with little empirical evidence in the literature. This research project evaluates a required study abroad program at the School of Global Studies and Collaboration (GSC), Aoyama Gakuin University, to fill the evidence gap. As a part of a comprehensive evaluation project, the authors included an outcome-based conceptual framework, logic model, analytical strategies, and instrument selection procedures in this publication. The publication also shared future evaluation possibilities once the authors would collect and analyse the data from the GSC. The authors plan to generate the insights from the project to contribute to publishing a series of academic articles and solving administrative problems in the GSC study abroad program.