

National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange

Advising Students with Disabilities in Education Abroad: Promoting Equal Opportunities and Best Outcomes



NAFSA Region I
October 28, 2010
Michele Scheib
Email: mscheib@miusa.org



www.miusa.org

Agenda

- Best Practices on Study Abroad Students with Disabilities
- Roundtable Discussions
- Large Group Sharing
- Available Resources



U.S. Disability Context

11% Post Secondary Students with Disabilities on U.S. Campuses vs. 3% in Education Abroad

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Learning Disability/ADD | 28% | vs. | 47% |
| Mental Disability | 24% | vs. | 29% |
| Physical Disability | 15% | vs. | 8% |
| Sensory Disability | 9% | vs. | 5% |
| Other Disability | 24% | vs. | 11% |

Of several hundred college students with disabilities surveyed who have studied or plan to study abroad, a fifth use disability supports often or very often.



Citation National Survey on Student Engagement (2006), Open Doors (2009) and National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education (2008)

What is the National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange?



- Provides information and referrals to **increase the participation and inclusion of people with disabilities in international exchange**
- **Develops free resources, extensive website, and wide range of technical assistance.**
- Efforts to **encourage collaboration** between the disability and international exchange communities.



Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs



Cross-Cutting Issues

Levels of Access Barriers

Level One: Attitudinal barriers

What makes for a positive mindset to ask “how can we”?

Level Two: Getting specific information

How can we best gather/share accessibility information?

Level Three: Complex funding/policy barriers

When should we use advocacy, creativity, universal design?

Starting Out with the Right Mindset

Our mindset going into a task will affect the outcome. While we may not have the power to resolve all disability accommodation needs, either a positive versus negative outlook will determine how successful we will be in assisting a student with a disability. We can avoid a problem mindset by utilizing our curiosity.

Curiosity leads to asking the question: “What can be?”

“I wonder what creative ways we can reduce costs?” versus “It’s too costly.”

“Where can I start looking for a sign language interpreter?” versus “It’s not likely we will find one.”

“What are some alternative ways to get around?” versus “That country has no accessible transportation.”

“How can I learn more about this exchange participant’s disability?” versus “I don’t know anything about disabilities.”

Mobility International USA

National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange
(NCDE)

E-mail: clearinghouse@miusa.org

Tel/TTY: (541) 343-1284

MSN Messenger: clearinghouse_miusa@hotmail.com

www.miusa.org



NCDE is administered by Mobility International USA and sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State



www.miusa.org

Case Study Activity

Small Group Discussion:

Break into 4 groups and discuss a case study presented by the moderator at your table (20 minutes).

Report Back & Resources (30 minutes):

1. What were the attitudinal, informational and policy/funding barriers?
2. What TWO solutions or suggestions were most useful or surprising to learn?
3. What TWO questions or barriers still lingers and is in need of more answers or ideas?

Website Resources

— Mobility International USA - MIUSA - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://www.miusa.org/ncde

31 Google Calendar

— Mobility International USA - MIUSA

Search Site Search

MIUSA
mobility
international
usa

National Clearinghouse
on Disability and Exchange

National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange
Click to learn more...

International Development and Disability
Click to learn more...

MIUSA International Exchange Programs
Click to learn more...

Home About MIUSA Publications News Donate Contact Us

you are here: [home](#) -> [national clearinghouse on disability and exchange](#)

Home
About MIUSA
Search Disability Organizations
Publications
Donate
National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange
About NCDE
A World Awaits You Journal
Going Abroad
Coming to the U.S.A.

**Bridging people, programs and places.
Increasing disability inclusion in international exchange.**

The National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange (NCDE) is a comprehensive, one-stop resource on advising and tools for people with disabilities, professionals, educational institutions and organizations on increasing disability inclusion in international study, volunteer, teach and other exchange programs.

Going Abroad
Tipsheets
Coming to the U.S.A
Stories & Blogs
Tools for Exchange Professionals
Send Us Your Questions

NCDE News
NCDE Presentation in South Africa on Advising Students with Disabilities
Oct 01, 2010
Apply Now for Fulbright Scholarships!
Sep 27, 2010

Donate Today
Donate Today
Make a tax-deductible donation to MIUSA today!

Done

Desktop 11:48 AM



Case Study #1: Navigating a Colonial City in Mexico

Survival Strategies for Going Abroad: A Guide for People with Disabilities

www.miusa.org/publications/books/ss

Search Featured People

www.miusa.org/ncde/stories/featuredpeople

One Advisor to Another: How to Transfer Core Advising Skills When Working With Visually Impaired and Blind Students

www.miusa.org/ncde/tools/bestpractices/besch

Personal Assistants on International Exchange Programs

www.miusa.org/ncde/tipsheets/personalasst

Social Security or Vocational Rehabilitation: Using these Funds for Exchange

www.miusa.org/ncde/tipsheets/ssa

Providing Information in Alternative Formats

www.miusa.org/ncde/tools/altformats



Advising Tips: Once They Are Accepted



- Set up a meeting with the student with a disability, yourself and disability services
- Be encouraging from the start; focus on “how” not “if”
- Dialogue together and ask specific questions about barriers (use accommodation form to guide questions)
- Encourage the participant to think about contingency plans and coping mechanisms
- Identify tools and supports systems that would assist the person with day to day life

Case Study #2: Changing Perspectives in Germany

Guide Dogs and Service Animals Tip Sheet

www.miusa.org/ncde/tipsheets/servicedogs

Finding Homestays for Students with Disabilities Tip Sheet

www.miusa.org/ncde/tools/homestaydisab

Stories from Exchange Alumni with Disabilities

www.miusa.org/ncde/stories/weilbacher

A World Awaits You: Accessing Foreign Languages edition

www.miusa.org/publications/books/foreignlanguages

A Practice of Yes: Working with Overseas Partners

www.miusa.org/publications/books/poy

Building Bridges, A Manual on Including People with Disabilities

www.miusa.org/publications/books/bbfree

Search Disability Organizations

www.miusa.org/orgsearch



Preparing for Accommodation Differences

- Understand your partners overseas may not be informed about disability resources in their countries
- Find out about **local disability organizations**
- Explain that everyone is up for a different level of challenge
- Get the overseas partners to describe the local site/barriers specifically
- Include the individual with the disability in all “what if” discussions and accessibility planning



Case Study #3: Studying Abroad with a Health Condition

A World Awaits You: Students with Non-Apparent Disabilities Go Abroad edition

www.miusa.org/publications/books/nonapparentdisabilities

Insurance Considerations for Exchange Participants with Disabilities

www.miusa.org/ncde/tipsheets/insurance

Medications: Tips for Traveling Internationally

www.miusa.org/ncde/tipsheets/medications

Screening: Implications for Students with Disabilities in Education Abroad

www.miusa.org/ncde/tools/screening

Health and Disability Management Plan for Study Abroad

www.miusa.org/ncde/tools/bestpractices/smithcollege

Links to Online Directories of Disability Organizations Worldwide

www.miusa.org/ncde/link/onlinedirectories



Practices to be Wary of



- Purposely weeding out candidates due to **perceived** ability or disability needs or feeling the environment would be “impossible” to navigate
- Discouraging a person’s participation because of **perceived** time, budgetary or health concerns
- “**Feeling**” that the applicant’s disability may be a problem in the **host culture**
- Asking an individual with a disability to sign a form that **others are not asked to sign** in order to “protect for liability”

Case Study #4: Providing Accommodations from Afar

AWAY Topics: Disability and Higher Education Abroad

www.miusa.org/publications/books/awaytopics3

AWAY Topics: Higher Education Abroad and Complex Accommodations

www.miusa.org/publications/books/awaytopics2

Forms to Assess the Disability-Related Needs of an Exchange Participant

www.miusa.org/ncde/tipsheets/accommodationform

Mobility Disabilities: Tips for Inclusion in International Exchange

www.miusa.org/ncde/tipsheets/mobdistips

Stories by Exchange Participants with Disabilities

www.miusa.org/ncde/stories/schwartz

Power Point Presentation: Beyond Recruitment - Strategies of Support for Students with Disabilities on Study Abroad Programs

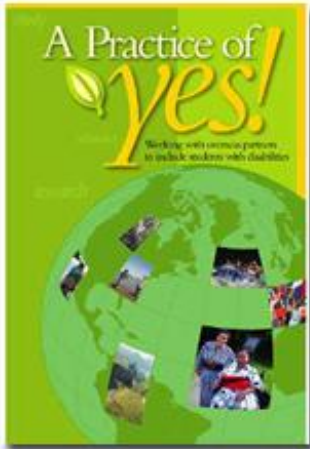
www.miusa.org/ncde/trainings



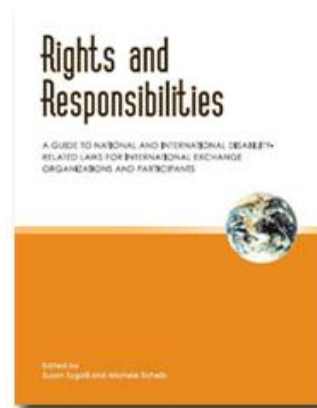
Disability Perspective

1. Disability is only one aspect of life or identity.
2. Assistive technology for many provides for more independent living.
3. People with disabilities are often healthy and not under a doctor's care for disability-related needs.
4. Like all minorities, people with disabilities often must educate others to reduce attitudinal barriers.
5. They are familiar with being told what they can't do versus what they can. Creates a need for advocacy skills or **increases non-disclosure of concerns**.
6. Students currently in college have grown up with protections of the ADA and other disability laws.

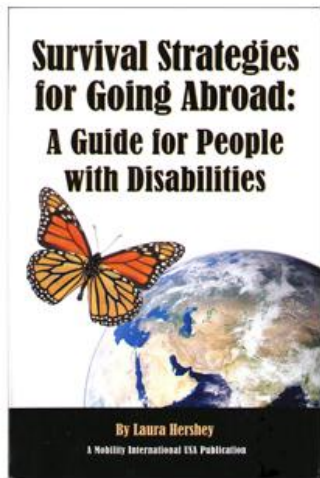
Online Publications and Resources



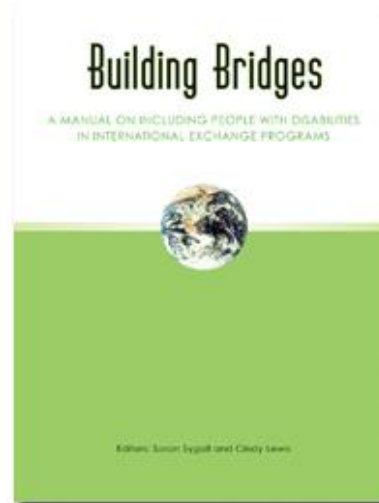
A Practice of Yes:
Working with
Overseas Partners
to Include People
with Disabilities



**Rights and
Responsibilities:** A Guide
to the ADA for
International Exchange
Organizations and
Participants



**Survival
Strategies
for Going
Abroad: A
Guide for
People with
Disabilities**



**Building Bridges: A
Manual for Including
People with Disabilities in
International Exchange
Programs**

Sign up for our E-news

- Go to:
www.miusa.org/about/maillinglists to sign up and be notified monthly when new tools, tips and programs are available

