Look Both Ways Before Crossing Cultures: Proactive Approaches to Behavioral Issues Abroad

While preventing all instances of inappropriate behavior abroad is unrealistic, addressing warning signs in the application, acceptance, pre-departure and arrival phases can reduce the likelihood of an incident abroad. These approaches not only provide opportunities to document issues and provide conditions and terms, but, more importantly, they provide students with clear expectations for their time abroad. Before allowing your students to cross cultures, consider how these methods may help ensure that your students are poised for success.

Prospective Student Phase

• Consider recording advisor comments of interactions with student to address any pink/red flags down the road.

Application phase

- Ask questions in the application phase related to students' disciplinary/legal records, ability to serve as an ambassador, reasons for poor academic performance, etc.
- Follow-up on problematic responses.
- Consult with your providers/host institutions on issues
- Interview students with pink/red flags
- Partner with your judicial affairs unit on campus

Acceptance phase

 Implement probationary acceptances for students with serious records

- Consider rejecting students with serious records that show patterns of behavior and include recent incidents
- Include codes of conduct in acceptance materials or predeparture handbooks

Pre-departure orientation

- Have one, and address behavioral expectations: set clear expectations
- Provide training for on-site staff and faculty directors so that they understand what is expected of students and how to ensure adherence to expectations/policies

On-site orientation

- Set expectations for students: be clear and specific
- Allow students to set expectations for each other as a group create group accountability
- Consider program format and how the program structure can help/hinder students' behavior

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Pro-active approaches	Currently doing	Could feasibly implement	Maybe down the road
Record comments of interactions on the pre-application phase			
Ask questions related to disciplinary/legal history in application			
Ask question(s) about being an ambassador in the application			
Be more involved in screening applications for providers or direct enrollment programs			
Interview students prior to making acceptance decisions or recommendations to partners			
Work with judicial office on campus to learn about students with records			
Work more closely with providers/host institutions regarding students with red flags			
Accept students with serious violations on a probationary basis			
Consider rejecting students with numerous red flags or very serious violations			
Hold a pre-departure orientation			
Address behavioral issues/expectations at the pre-departure orientation			
Address more specific examples of good/bad behaviors at orientation			
Create a student code of conduct and include in handbook			
Create a student code of conduct and add a mechanism for students to sign it			
Ask providers/host institutions to report incidents to you			
Ask providers/host institutions about their process for handling incidents			
Ask judicial office at home institution if incidents abroad should be reported to them			
Provide additional training/information to on-site staff about behavioral expectations			
Provide additional training/information to on-site staff about handling behavioral incidents			
Other ideas:			