

NAFSA Regional XI Conference October 24, 2013

Toward Partnership: A Discussion of Admission Issues & Practices Today's Goals

- Discuss the purpose of the admissions process
- Identify issues inherent in the admission process
- Determine ways of enhancing the collaboration between home institutions and program providers

How we'll get there

- Overview and trends
- Questions to consider
- Issues that universities and providers face
- Enhancing collaboration

Trends and Standards in Admissions

- Expansion of education abroad activities
- Professionalization of the field
- Institutions more involved in admissions & training = redundancy in application requirements
- Time to consider how all work together
- "The recruitment and selection processes are transparent and fair." - Standards of Good Practice for Education Abroad
 - Any questions that could be discriminatory?
 - Questions that could help to attract underrepresented students?
 - Ask about disabilities, health concerns?

The Purpose of Admissions

- What is the purpose of admissions to you as a professional?
- What is the purpose of admissions at your university?
- What is your organization's admission approach?

- Holistic, academic, or a combination?

Are you reconsidering your approach? What factors are you looking at? What has influenced this change?

Common Issues: Examples from the Field

- Communication between providers and institution
- High volume of student vs. lack of time/staff/resources
- Eliminating road-blocks vs. encouraging students
- Managing student expectations
- Successfully connecting students with the right program

Working Toward Collaboration: Practical Solutions

- What are primary stumbling blocks between the university and provider admission processes?
 - Who owns the admissions process?
 - Redundancy
- How to be "transparent and fair" in recruitment and selection?
 - Managing expectations of what requirements must be met for acceptance
 - What prior knowledge is expected of the student? (e.g. STEM, language acquisition programs)
- Should we use the application process as part of the assessment of the student?
 - What student learning outcomes are you evaluating or trying to evaluate?

Working Toward Collaboration: Next Steps

- Common application? Student profile? security / privacy issues, many players (partners, universities...)
- Universal reference form for professors/references could be used for multiple programs?
- Two part approach: first being general common student information, second being program specific information
- Marketing study abroad to STEM professors and include them in the process to encourage STEM students to go abroad
- Setting clearer student goals in the application process; set the standard for checking in with students and prepare them to articulate their experience

+ Thank you

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