

Developing Intercultural Agility Among Short-term Study Abroad Students

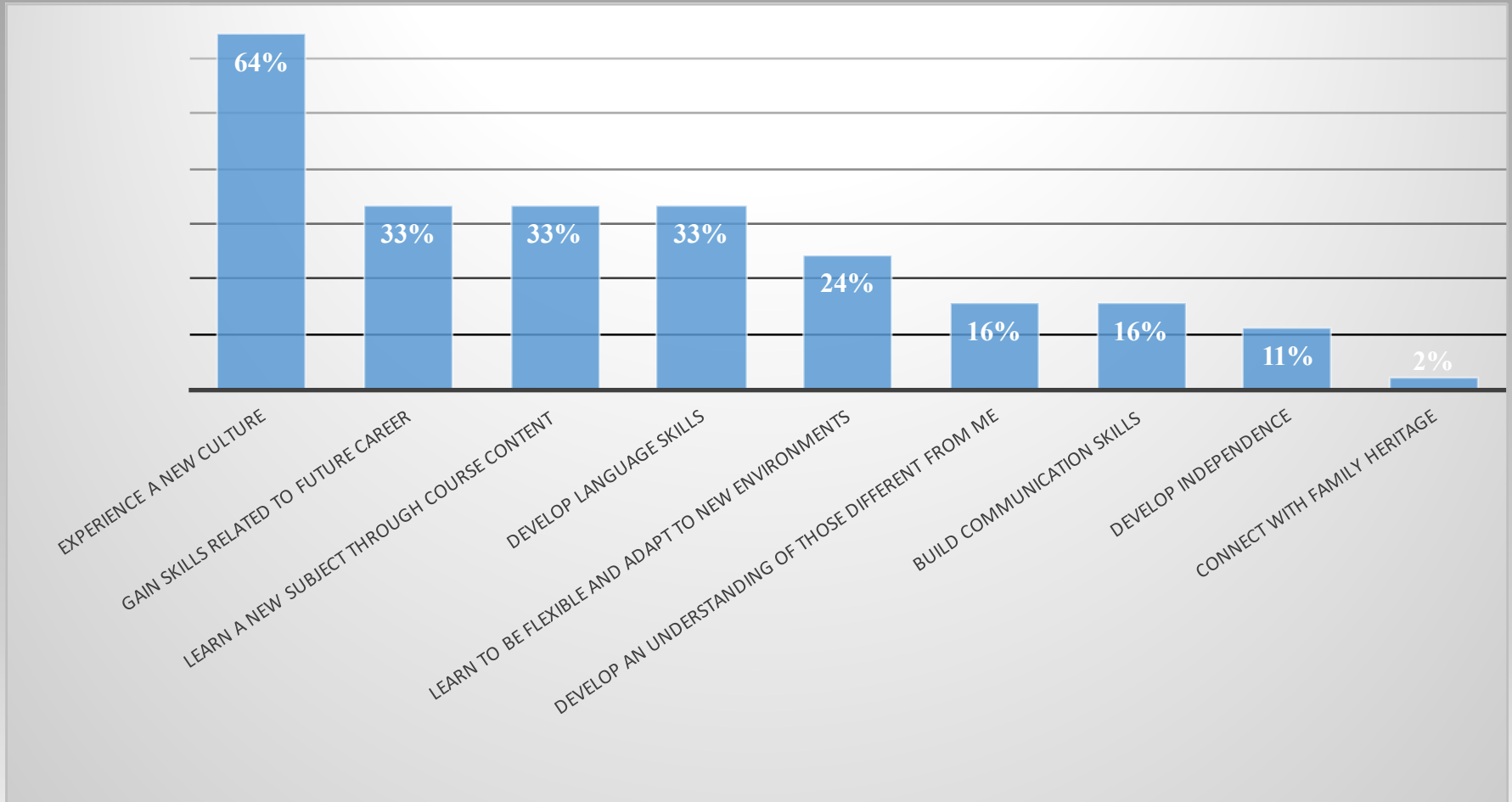
Alisha Cardwell, Brandeis University

Isabel Yevenes, IFSA Santiago, Chile



Student Goals

Survey at pre-departure workshop



your future?

Survey at pre-departure workshop



“better job after Brandeis”

“hope to build a clear
direction for future
career in public
health”

“cultural awareness,
independence, new
connections”

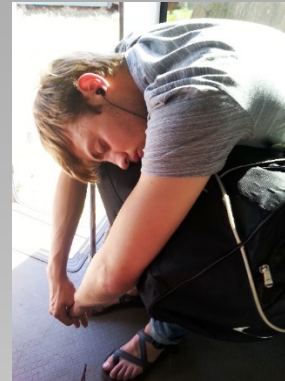
“global citizen”



Intercultural Agility On-Site

Dealing with expectations and performance

- Student not a tourist



- Opps, it is not what I thought



Intercultural Agility On-Site

Dealing with expectations and performance

- Exploring not judging



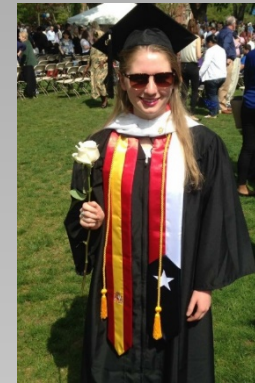
- “Everything is culture”



Intercultural Agility On-Site

Dealing with expectations and performance

- What does success mean?



- Learning from the Other and learning from myself



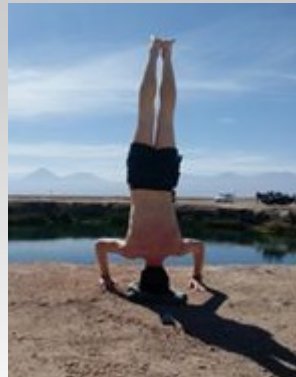
Intercultural Agility On-Site

Dealing with expectations and performance

- Embody cultural awareness



- Re-defining or confirming foundations/goals



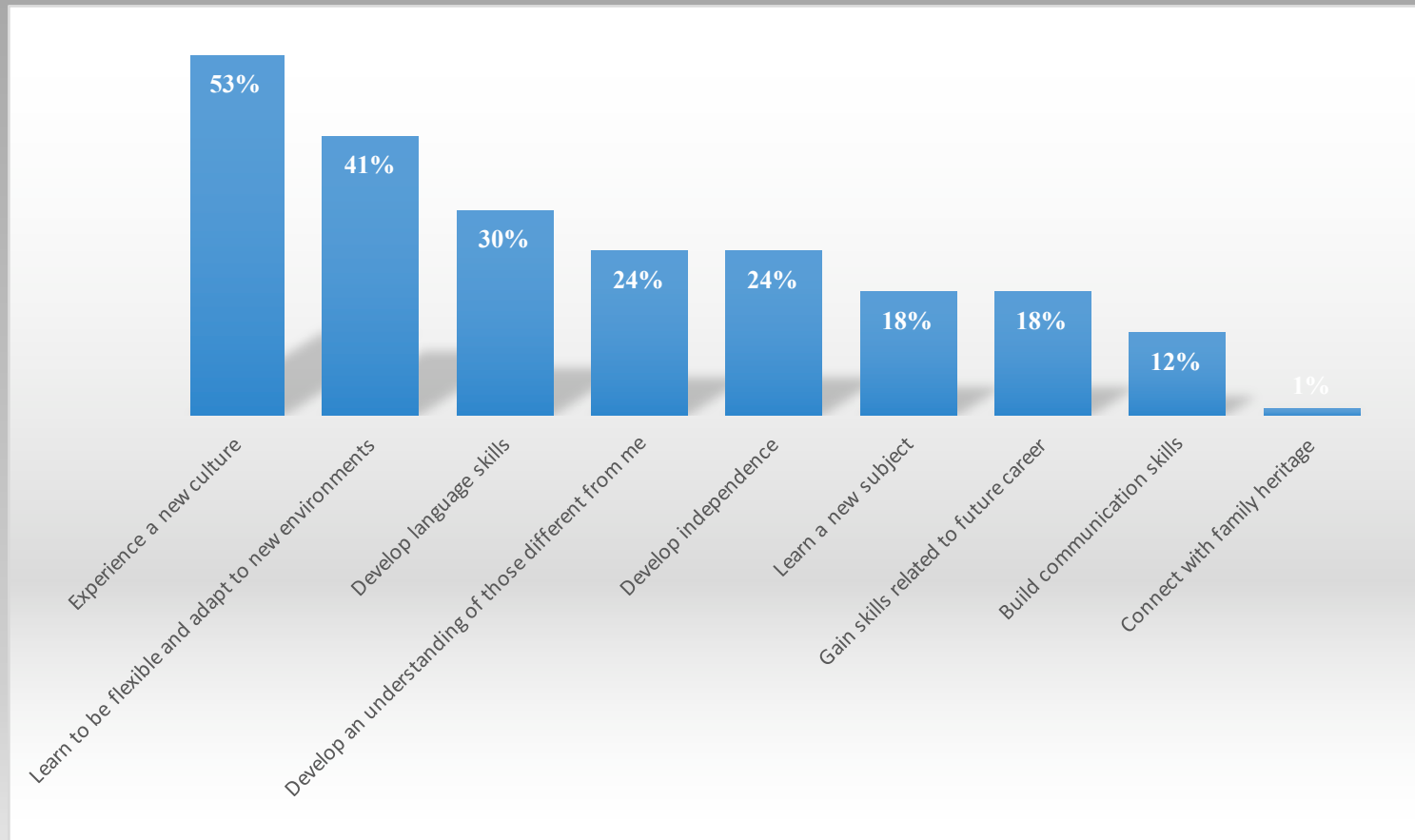
Student Check-Ins & Reflection Activity

Wellness Activity: Over this next week, go to the nearest (or your favorite) park (or similar public space). Spend a full 30 minutes with all of your technology OFF and observe. Don't do anything else, just observe. What do you notice? How are you perceived? Write down 10 words that describe your experience.

- 1 Bonita Chinita
- 2 funny
- 3 curious
- 4 hungry
- 5 bold (when at the club and walking alone as a female)
- 6 explorer (the archeologists said this to me)
- 7 "negrita" (common term to describe black people)
- 8 skinny (people perpetually comment on my weight, not my host mom but people in the program)
- 9 "cara" (rich, sometimes I see that with the shades and clothes)
- 10 braids (Everyone touches my braids, because they're not used to seeing them. I usually don't mind.)

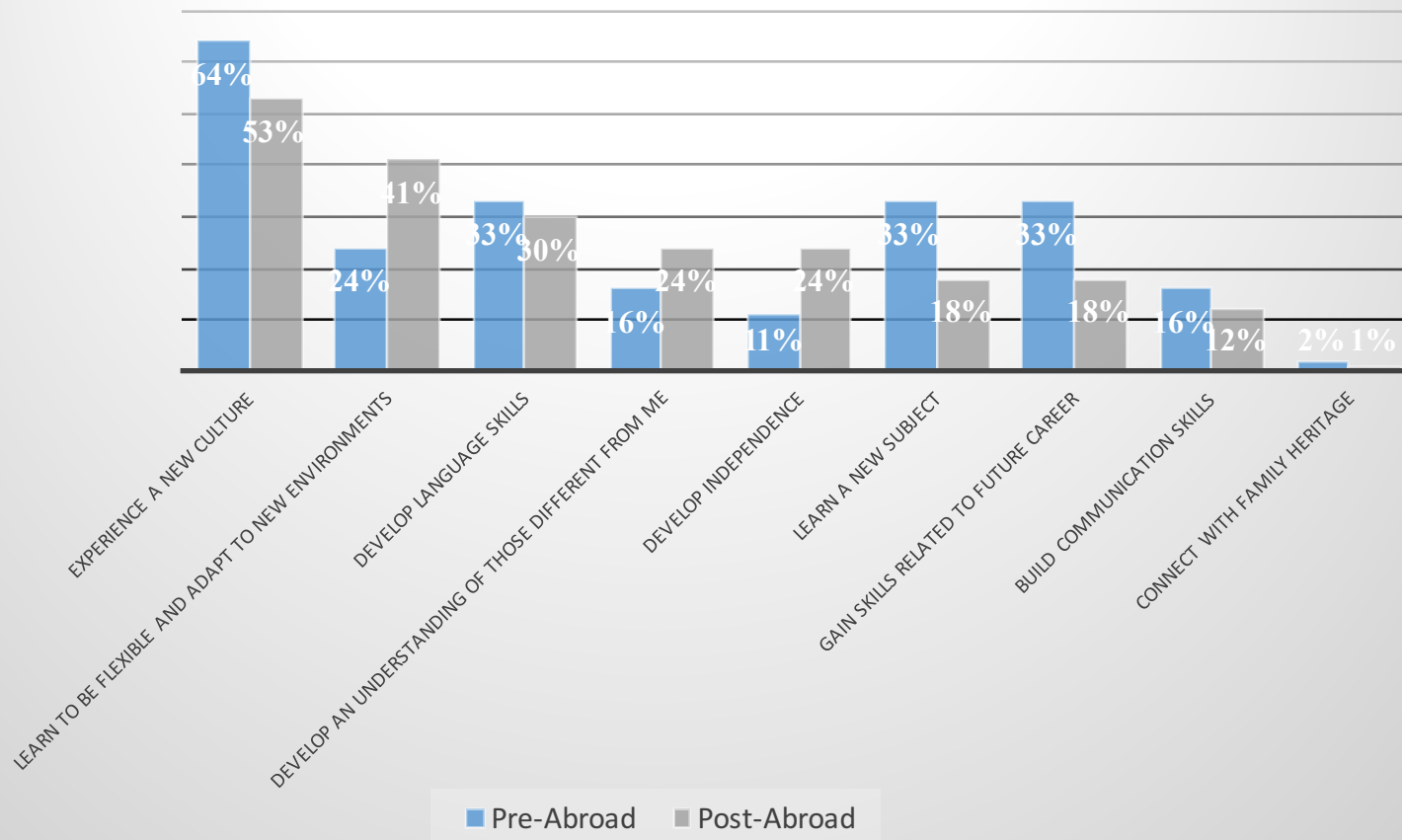
Student Goals

Survey while post-abroad / while abroad: which two goals do you believe you've best fulfilled while abroad?



Student Goals

Pre and post-abroad comparison



Re-Entry Programming & Reflection

Ex) Learned how to navigate on own

Travel and Transportation

Academics

Ex) Independent course module helped me exercise time management

Housing

Community

Ex) Exposure to Language - improved my speaking

Individual

Write Words or Phrases to Describe Your Growth Abroad in Each Category

Exploration

Study Abroad Re-Orientation

Brandeis
Hiatt Career Center

Study Abroad Skills

Think back on your experiences studying abroad as you read through each statement. Place a check mark next to those that describe your experience as part of living, working, studying, or traveling abroad. Put two check marks next to statements that were most significant.

Communication Skills (Written & Verbal)	Check
I regularly communicated/interacted with others in another language.	
I learned new culturally-appropriate ways to express myself.	
I had to listen and observe others in order to communicate appropriately.	

Problem Solving Skills	Check
I resolved a conflict based on misunderstandings of a cultural difference.	
I collaborated with a diverse team or group to accomplish a task or goal.	
I worked through a crisis or stressful situation.	
I managed my time and juggled multiple priorities.	

Flexibility/Adaptability	Check
I had to adjust quickly to new situations and unexpected circumstances.	
I learned to navigate my way in new places.	
I was self-reliant and independent at times.	
I became more comfortable taking risks.	

Interpersonal Skills	Check
I gained a new understanding of another culture or lifestyle.	
I made friends/acquaintances in a culture different from my own.	
I asked for and received help from others.	
I learned more about the role of goals, beliefs, and values in individual interactions.	

World View	Check
I am more aware of values and lifestyles other than my own.	
I am more aware of how the U.S. is perceived in other parts of the world.	
I learned about personal/political issues outside America.	
I learned about the key role of culture in global relations.	

Describe Your Skills

Employers and graduate schools value the skills you gained abroad, but they need your help to see how those skills connect to them. Review one of the sets of skills above and provide an example highlighting your experience.

Brainstorm:

Location: _____ Activity: _____

Skill: _____ Outcome: _____

Take-away Thoughts

- Attainable goal setting
- Importance of reflection
- Student-first mentality
- Importance of re-entry