Office of International Programs
Faculty International Program Development Grants
Report Template

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Course title: SW596: Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy and Intervention: A Comparison of the United States and Ireland
Country visited: Ireland
Institution visited: University College Dublin

Number of student participants: 16
Number of non-SDSU students: 0

Proposal Abstract
This two week course includes classroom lectures, and local agency and cultural site visits in Dublin, Ireland. The course begins with an introduction to alcohol and other drug (AOD) issues as they relate to individuals, groups, and society, both in the United States and in Ireland. Students will become familiar with evidence-based intervention methods designed to address AOD problems in Ireland and compare these to those found in the United States. The course will compare and contrast the impact of AOD policies on alcohol and drug-related problems in both countries.

Opening/overview of intentions/activity
Study abroad course of 2 weeks with the focus on drug and alcohol policy and services in Ireland and a comparison with the United States. The course involved pre-trip comparison agency visits in San Diego, classroom instruction, agency visits in Dublin, and cultural site visits in Ireland.
In preparation for the trip abroad
Collaborated with faculty at University College, Dublin, School of Applied Social Science, Hilda Loughran, Ph.D. to arrange for agency visits. Worked with Shauna Hughes, International Programs Coordinator at UCD regarding program requests and budget (dorm rooms, meals, bus passes, cultural event arrangements).

Upon arrival/specific activities
- Orientation session held with UCD International Programs Office
- Class discussion/lectures held every morning in School of Social Work/School of Applied Social Sciences
- Agencies visited
  - Fiona Carolan and Declan Donnelly, Drug Court, Dublin
  - Gary Broderick, SAOL Project: [http://www.saolproject.ie](http://www.saolproject.ie)
  - Pauline McKeown, Coolmine Therapeutic Agency Residential programs: [http://www.coolmine.ie/](http://www.coolmine.ie/)
  - Merchants Key Needle Exchange Program: [http://www.mqi.ie/](http://www.mqi.ie/)
- Cultural Activities:
  - Walking tour of Dublin upon arrival, with guide
  - Visit to Bru Na Boinne with a tour of Knowth neolithic monument
  - Tour of the Book of Kells, Dublin
- Welcome dinner
- Departure dinner with Irish music and dancing.

What particular major/minors were represented?
16 students participated in this trip. Students included social work majors (9) and social work Master’s level students (2); Speech, Language, and Hearing majors (2); Nutritional Science (1); Economics (1); and ISCOR (1).

Conclusion, recommendations, and next steps?
Why is this particular institution [course] valuable for SDSU?

Students were able to examine drug and alcohol treatment in the context of Ireland and make comparisons with what they had observed in San Diego. UCD as a host university did an excellent job in facilitating and assisting in this course. All of the agencies that were visited provided interesting and informative information that will help social work and other majors in the helping professions.

Sustainability of project (is there a high likelihood that students in the department will be interested in studying the proposed subject area at the prospective partner university and vice versa)?
This course was filled by November 2012. It is anticipated that it will fill again quickly this fall. Working with UCD Office of International Programs as host provides for an affordable venue.

Next steps: Secure dates for next year from Shauna Hughes and begin budget estimates; update Extended Studies website with new dates and cost for 2014; pictures from 2013 trip have been uploaded; contact current students on waiting list to begin prescreening interviews in September 2013. Make minor adjustments to the schedule.

**Additional Information**

Enrollment will be kept at 16 due to agency constraints of hosting larger groups.