Office of International Programs
Faculty International Program Development Grants

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Course title: SW596: Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy and Intervention: A Comparison of the United States and Ireland

Country/ies visited: Ireland
Institution visited: University College Dublin
Number of student participants: 18

Previous IP proposals submitted and grants awarded:
January, 2012; Same project title, to set up program in Ireland

Other funding for this activity available/applied for: None

Proposal Abstract (75 word maximum):
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 compares and contrasts the impact of AOD policies on alcohol and drug-related problems in both countries.
Travel report:

I. **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.

II. **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 Sinead Egan, International Programs Coordinator at UCD regarding program requests and budget (dorm rooms, meals, bus passes, cultural event arrangements).

III. **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:**
     1. Fiona Carolan, Parnell Educational Center. Serving Dublin Drug Court Clients.
     5. Alan Doolan, Merchants Key Needle Exchange Program: [http://www.mqi.ie/](http://www.mqi.ie/)
     6. We also had the opportunity to attend a conference hosted by SAOL agency for local professionals and community members.

   - **What particular major/minors** were represented?
     18 students participated in this trip. Students included social work majors (6) and social work Master’s level students (4); Speech, Language, and Hearing majors (2); Public Health (3); Nursing (1).
--**Cultural Activities:**

Walking tour of Dublin upon arrival, with guide; visit to Monasterboice and other ancient monuments as a tour; Welcome dinner; Departure dinner with Irish music and storytelling.

IV. **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 was the second year to offer this course. There have been many more applicants than slots. Working with UCD Office of International Programs as host provides for an affordable venue.

- Next steps: Secure dates for next year from Sinead Egan and begin budget estimates; update Extended Studies website with new dates and cost for 2015; pictures from 2014 trip will be uploaded on my website for the trip.

V. **Additional Information**

Enrollment will be kept at 18 due to agency constraints of hosting larger groups.