Questionnaire for Returning UM-St. Louis Study Abroad Students

I am willing to provide information to potential study abroad students about my program and experiences abroad. _____ yes _____ no

If yes: Name

Email address

Would you recommend this program to other students?
Please explain why or why not.

ACADEMICS
Did you enroll in an orientation program or intensive language program at the host university prior to your academic courses? ___ yes ___ no Was it useful? Why or why not?

What, if any, were the differences between studying at the host university and UMSL? More or less homework? Relationship with professors? Papers? Tests?

Was the course work more difficult/ less difficult or about the same as at UMSL? Was grading harder or easier or about the same as at UMSL? (please circle).

TRAVEL & HOUSING
Approximate cost of airfare? ________________________ How did you get from the airport to your housing or university?
Where did you live? (please circle)
Residence Hall (Name: _______________) ;Apartment; Homestay; Other:

How did you locate this housing?

How long did it take you to find housing?

What services were provided with your housing (laundry, meals, etc.)?

Were furnishings provided with housing?

What were the advantages and disadvantages of your housing?

What would you recommend to future students regarding housing (good/bad areas, neighborhoods, public transportation, shopping)

MONEY

On a monthly basis, how much did you spend on rent______________;
Food______________; Transportation______________;
Entertainment______________.

Was this more, less or about what you expected? (please circle)

How did you get money to pay for things? Circle all that are applicable.
ATM; Credit/debit card; Travelers checks; Personal check; Other (please list)

Any general advice about money?
LIVING ABROAD
What was the biggest challenge for you in living abroad?

Did you experience “culture shock?”
If yes, what did helped you to regain equilibrium?

What do you wish you had brought with you and what do you wish you had left behind?

Did you bring: ___ cellphone ___ laptop ___ camera
___ Small electric items (hairdryer, razor, curling iron, iron)
Should future students bring these with them?

Was it easy or difficult to meet people from your host country? What advice would you give future students?

In your host city what was:
the best place to get a cheap meal?
the best thing to do on a Sunday afternoon?
the easiest way to get around the city?
the best cultural attraction?
the thing you most enjoyed doing?
the best place to travel outside the campus?
the best place to travel outside the city or country?
the best internet café?
your favorite food and where did you get it?
Did you feel safe while abroad? Advice for future students about safety?

Did you experience anti-Americanism?  
If yes, was it an isolated incident or a common experience? How did you handle it?

GENERAL  
What do you wish you had known before you went abroad?

What was the biggest disappointment? The most rewarding experience?

Was it difficult returning to the U.S? If yes, please describe some difficulties.

Was the UMSL orientation useful? How would you change it?

Any other comments?

Thank you for helping future study abroad students by completing this questionnaire! Please return to the Study Abroad Office in 261 MSC.