Elements in Psychology and Culture
edited by
Kenneth D. Keith
University of San Diego

INTERCULTURAL LEARNING THROUGH STUDY ABROAD

Susan B. Goldstein
University of Redlands
Abstract: Over the past three decades, the population of international
students throughout the world has steadily increased. Although
university students choose to study in locations other than their home
country for a variety of reasons, including professional development
and disciplinary training, nearly all education abroad programs have
intercultural learning as a central goal. In this Element, perspectives
derived from cross-cultural psychological research are applied to an
investigation of the effectiveness of study abroad as a mechanism for
intercultural learning. Effectiveness is broadly defined and includes not
only overall favorable program outcomes, such as gains in intercultural
skills, knowledge, attitudes, and awareness, but also a recognition that
study abroad experiences and outcomes may vary depending upon
participants’ diverse and intersectional identities. Best practices for
facilitating intercultural learning through study abroad are identified,
and strategies are outlined for addressing the methodological
challenges of research in this area.

Keywords: study abroad, student mobility, intercultural competence,
intercultural learning, international education

© Susan B. Goldstein 2022
ISBNs: 9781009126960 (PB), 9781009127011 (OC)
ISSNs: 2515-3986 (online), 2515-3943 (print)
# Contents

1 Introduction and Key Concepts .................. 1
2 Assessing Intercultural Competence in Student Sojourners .......... 2
3 Intercultural Competence Outcomes of Study Abroad ............... 12
4 Facilitating and Inhibiting Factors .................. 17
5 Theoretical Framework for Intercultural Competence Development through Study Abroad .......... 41
6 Conclusions and Future Directions .................. 46

References ............................................. 49