

Discussion Guide

Episode 6: Monica Malhotra and Andrew Gordon on Making Study Abroad Accessible for All

About Global Learning

Global learning is the process of diverse people collaboratively analyzing and addressing complex problems that transcend borders (Landorf & Doscher, 2015). Among many student learning outcomes, global learning develops:

- **Global Awareness:** Knowledge of the interrelatedness of local, global, international, and intercultural issues, trends, and systems
- **Global Perspective:** Ability to conduct a multi-perspective analysis of local, global, international, and intercultural problems
- **Global Engagement:** Willingness to engage in local, global, international, and intercultural problem solving

About this Episode

Monica Malhotra is a Project Manager with the National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange at Mobility International USA, which aims to increase participation of people with disabilities in inclusive international exchange programs. Previously, Monica worked for 10 years at The University of Texas at Austin, where she assisted with admission, immigration, disability support, student counseling, and sponsored student programs as the Senior International Student Coordinator for ESL Services and as International Student Advisor at the International Office. Her past experience includes serving four years on the board for the Multicultural Refugee Coalition and interning with the EastWest institute in New York. Monica earned her Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Texas at Arlington and her Master's degree in International Studies from the University of Exeter, UK.

In this episode, Monica and Andrew discuss how their organizations support a broad array of individuals, educational institutions, and for-

profit, non-profit, and governmental entities committed to making study abroad more diverse, accessible, equitable, and inclusive.

Suggested Learning Outcomes

Upon reflection, listeners to this episode will be able to:

- Identify resources for making study abroad accessible for all
- Explain the meaning of universal design as it is applied to study abroad
- Describe ways in which global education offices and offices of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are similar in terms of goals and mission

Discussion Questions

- What gaps do Malhotra and Gordon's organizations fill? How are their organizations' missions related to one another?
- How do Malhotra and Gordon help their constituents make study abroad and exchange programs more inclusive even when those constituents aren't members of the underrepresented groups they serve?
- How can study abroad and DEI offices collaborate?
- What are the design principles embedded in making study abroad equitable and accessible for all?
- What kinds of changes in mindset and practice do providers need to make in order for study abroad to become more inclusive?
- Malhotra and Gordon talk about the relationship between making progress and being perfect. What kind of balance do they recommend providers strike?

Suggested Activities

- Ask listeners to research principles of universal design, and use them to evaluate the accessibility of a program or activity on campus, online, in the community, or abroad.
- Have listeners visit the National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange or the Diversity Abroad Resources and Services page and locate a resource that is applicable to their work.
- Have listeners research the latest statistics on study abroad participation available through the Institute of International Education’s Open Doors report and/or participation data available at their home institution. What gaps need to be closed? What resources are available to help close those gaps?

APA (6th edition) Citation

Doscher, S. (Producer/host). (2020, February). *Monica Malhotra and Andrew Gordon on making study abroad accessible for all* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <https://globallearningpodcast.fiu.edu/episode-6-malhotra-gordon/>

About the Podcast

“Making Global Learning Universal” is a collection of conversations about engaging diverse perspectives, collaboration, and complex problem solving in higher education—on campus, online, in local communities, and abroad. Episodes are posted seasonally. Guests are from a wide variety of institutions, geographies, and areas of teaching, research, and practice. All episodes are accompanied by show notes, transcripts, and discussion guides to enhance global learning professional development, leadership, and teacher preparation.

The podcast is hosted by [Stephanie Doscher](#), Director of Global Learning Initiatives at Florida International University and co-author of *Making Global Learning Universal: Promoting Inclusion and Success for All*.

The “Making Global Learning Universal” podcast is produced through a partnership between Florida International University’s Office of Global Learning Initiatives, Media Technology Services, and Disability Resource Center.

Episodes, show notes, transcripts, and discussion guides are available at <http://globallearningpodcast.fiu.edu>.

You may subscribe to the “Making Global Learning Universal” [RSS feed](#) or access the podcast via [iTunes](#), [Spotify](#), or [Stitcher](#). “Making Global Learning Universal” is also listed on [MERLOT](#).

Listener recommendations

“Making Global Learning Universal” is always looking for new guests to join the show and interesting topics to cover. [Email us](#) to make a suggestion!

Contact

Office of Global Learning Initiatives
Florida International University
11200 SW 8th Street
305-348-4145
goglobal@fiu.edu

Notes