Improving Your Students’ Chances of Placement in the U.S.

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Agenda

- Explanation of the Placement Process
- Application Review
- What Program Officers (POs) consider
- Placement meetings and the placement process
- Improving chances of placement
  - On an institutional level
  - Building strong applications
  - Host Site Request Lists
- Examples
- Questions and Answers
The Placement Process

Application Review

- Academic Performance
- English Proficiency
- Personal Statement
- Academic References
- Coordinator Reference
  - Rankings
- Course Request List and reasons for selection
- Host Site Request List
Other Considerations

- Balance of home institution
  - Highly positive versus highly negative balances
  - Examples
- Need to balance the merits of individual students and the needs of the network
- Try to reward outstanding students, but there are outstanding students from every university
- ISEP's goal is maximum mobility of students
- Academic profile of institution and difficulty of placing certain types of students
  - Architects, Engineering, etc.
  - Students with low English proficiency

Placement Meetings

- POs do not have final say regarding placement.
- POs read applications, select students for presentation at placement meetings.
- Assistant Vice President for Programs determines the space awarded at each site based off of PO nominations.
- 9 POs, 50+ countries!
- Nominations based off of student's Top 4 choices (more on this later!)
Order of Meetings

Most Competitive Sites (more on this later)

*TOP 4 CHOICES*

Consortia
- North Carolina
- Georgia
- 'A' to 'E' Meetings

*ALL CHOICES*

- "Top 10" Meeting
- "Follow-Up" Meeting

'A' to 'E' Meetings

- 'A' Meeting (Excellent Chance of Placement)
- 'B' Meeting (Very Good/Good Chance of Placement)
- 'C' Meeting (Fair Chance of Placement)
- 'D' Meeting (Limited Chance of Placement)
- 'E' Meeting (Very Limited Chance of Placement)
Improving Chances of Placement

- Institutional Considerations
- Individual Student Considerations
  - Host Site Request Lists
  - Applications Components
  - Reviewing Directory Pages for Eligibility
- Placement Length

Institutional Considerations

✉ Nominate students from a variety of degree programs
✉ All engineering, business, etc. is tough to place!
✉ Ensure your student’s host site request lists are varied!
  ✉ If your students all list the same sites, they are competing against each other.
  ✉ If students are requesting to go together, they must be EXTREMELY flexible, and will be considered last.
✉ Send applications in by the priority deadline.
✉ Applications that arrive after February 15 and September 1 will not be given priority consideration.
✉ The later the application, the fewer the options!
A Common Problem!

STUDENT 1          STUDENT 2

1. San Jose State University  1. San Jose State University
2. Howard University        2. Old Dominion
3. Old Dominion University  3. Howard University

- Similar host site request lists make for challenging placements and disappointed students!
- One nomination per Most Competitive site!!!
Most Competitive Sites
(formerly Restricted Sites)

☞ Must be the #1 site on student's list
☞ Each University may only nominate one student per site!
   ☞ Multiple students will not be considered for placement at the same site. Students shouldn't waste spaces on HSRL!
☞ Current Sites:
   ☞ California State University East Bay
   ☞ Chapman University (California)
   ☞ Dominican University of California
   ☞ Eckerd College (Florida)
   ☞ Framingham State University (Massachusetts)
   ☞ Saint Peter's College (New Jersey)
   ☞ San Diego State University (California)
   ☞ San Jose State University (California)
   ☞ Southern Connecticut State University
   ☞ Virginia Commonwealth University

Application Components

☞ Unique essays are key!
   ☞ This is the only time we get to hear from students directly!
   ☞ Avoid clichés and give concrete examples
☞ Answer the questions on the Course Request List about why a particular site is appropriate
   ☞ Okay to include non-academic reasons that are noteworthy.
☞ Coordinator comments, or a ranking of students is very helpful.

Ask an ISEP Ambassador!

ISEP Ambassador: Shamshu S

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Host University: American University of Sharjah
Host Country: USA
Host University: North Carolina State University
Year/Semester Abroad: Fall 2012
Subject studied abroad: Electrical Engineering
Lessons learned abroad: The world is full of surprises and you never know what to expect. It's important to have fun and make the most of your time.
Directory Pages

* Determining Eligibility
  * Level of Study (Undergraduate versus Graduate)
  * Field of Study
  * Language Requirements
  * Period of Study
  * Other Limitations/Qualifications
* Read the entire Directory Page

Example Applications
Example #1 (Difficult to place)

**Applicant Profile**
- Business Admin.
- Graduate Level (will take undergrad)
- TOEFL: 82
- SM2 placement
- Above Average Grades
- Good Rec. Letters
- Average Essay, few personal details.

**Host Site Request List:**
1. San Diego State
2. San Jose State
3. Rhodes College
4. Pacific Lutheran
5. N.C. State
6. Univ. Iowa
7. Univ. Kentucky
8. Old Dominion

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- Average Essay, few personal details.

**Host Site Request List:**
1. San Diego State (MC)
2. San Jose State (MC)
3. Rhodes College (VL)
4. Pacific Lutheran (closed)
5. N.C. State (F/VL)
6. Univ. Iowa (VL)
7. Univ. Kentucky (VL)
8. Old Dominion (VL)
Example #2 (Easier to Place)

Applicant Profile
- English Literature
- Undergrad Level
- TOEFL: 94
- FY placement
- Above Average Grades
- Good Rec. Letters
- Unique essay, good academic reasons for going abroad.
- Interested in Border Studies and Mexican-American Lit.

Host Site Request List:
1. New Mexico State
2. Northern Arizona
3. U Texas El Paso
4. U Montana
5. Willamette Univ.
6. Colorado Mesa

Example #2 (Easier to Place)

Applicant Profile
- English Literature
- Undergrad Level
- TOEFL: 94
- FY placement
- Above Average Grades
- Good Rec. Letters
- Unique essay, good academic reasons for going abroad.
- Interested in Border Studies and Mexican-American Lit.

Host Site Request List:
1. New Mexico State (VG)
2. Northern Arizona (F)
3. U Texas El Paso (L)
4. U Montana (G)
5. Willamette Univ. (VG)
6. Colorado Mesa (L)