GLOBAL FLIPPED CLASSROOM
A new course provides a model for extending access to study abroad — helping students have richer global experiences in less time.

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS BRING A NEW LENS TO COURSE CONTENT
Kristi Straus, lecturer in the College of the Environment, knew that her students could learn an enormous amount about sustainability issues if they could place them in a more global context. In Fall 2017, Straus partnered with professors at Tsinghua University in China to design an international option to her ENVIR 239 Sustainability: Personal Choices, Broad Impacts course, through which students on both campuses could work together to tackle real environmental issues.

Throughout the course, students watched short videos that “flipped” the course content and connected online via messaging apps. These connections brought new insights for UW and Tsinghua students alike. As students looked at their personal choices around, for example, garbage and diet, they shared their experiences with their peers across the Pacific Rim. Together they linked course concepts to their own lives, and gained insight through comparing cultural norms and policies.

SHORT-TERM STUDY ABROAD

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

Student collaboration
Online lectures
Synchronized class activities
SHORT TIME ABROAD, BIG IMPACT

At the end of the quarter, UW students traveled to China for ten days. Together on the Tsinghua campus, students attended lectures and collaborated on coursework. They also took field trips to industry labs and solar and wind farms to see Chinese sustainability efforts in action.

Shortening the time abroad meant increased opportunity. Students gained international experience without devoting the time or cost of a full quarter studying abroad. “Expanding our offerings to include courses with an embedded, short-term study abroad component is an important way to increase access and equity in global learning,” says Assistant Vice Provost of Global Affairs Gayle Christiansen.

POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS

100% highly rated the overall academic experience

100% would recommend this program to their friends

86% expressed a desire to study abroad again

50% received a scholarship

LEARN MORE

For students — Find various study abroad programs offered at the University of Washington at http://www.washington.edu/studyabroad/

For faculty — supportive resources

UW Bothell COIL: A fellowship program to support faculty and staff across UW's three campuses to establish online international collaborations

UW Tacoma COIL: A fellowship program that links UW courses with courses in different countries through real-time and asynchronous technologies.

Global Innovation Fund: A fund to provide initial support for initiatives and programs that enhance the UW's global engagement and reach.

The Center for Teaching and Learning and Academic Technologies offer support for global teaching collaborations.

This program was great, really fast-paced, rolling with the punches. Trying to fit everything into ten days was really fun.

I recommend this program to any student at UW. Your window of understanding the world is just opened. You can see people living in different situations, which is incredibly enriching.

This program is not just about environment and sustainability. It's more about comparing two countries and building a community of global citizens.