

Arcadia University

ACE Internationalization Laboratory

Questions For Student Focus GROUPS

In order to assess students' perceptions of the impact of their experiences at Arcadia on the ways in which they view the world, we set up focus groups with different types of students, those who:

- ◇ Had never studied abroad;
- ◇ Had participated in a short-term study abroad experience as part of a class;
- ◇ Had studied abroad for a year or semester;
- ◇ Had studied abroad more than once, combining short- and long-term experiences;
- ◇ Were from other countries (International students);
- ◇ Were seniors majoring in International Studies (all of whom had multiple study-abroad experiences).

We began the focus groups by reading the first sentence of Arcadia's mission statement: **Arcadia University prepares students for life in a rapidly changing global society**. Using the opening sentence as a starting point, we asked students three clusters of questions:

- ◆ From a societal point of view, what does it mean to be prepared for life in a rapidly changing global society?
- ◆ What is Arcadia's role in this process? What does Arcadia do to help insure that its graduates become the sorts of citizens we discussed earlier?
- ◆ What, in the time you have been at Arcadia, has helped you develop into the sort of citizen we discussed earlier?