When Visions & Values Collide: Perspectives on the Impact of Technology (ICT) in France

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Motivation for survey

- **Follow-up to Fall 2008 survey of longtime RDs in France, Spain & Italy. Technology cited as #1 change in last 10 years.**

- **« Net Generation's » dependency on ICT in all realms: social, academic, personal. How does this manifest itself abroad?**

- **Need for empirical evidence & student perspective on possible benefits &/or « untapped potential » of ICT _for academic & cultural integration_.**

ICT SURVEY – Fall 2009

- **14 participating SA programs - France (members of APUAF) www.apuaf.org**

- **Questionnaires completed by**
  - **355 students**
  - **50 administrative & teaching staff**

- **Data collection: Oct to Dec 2009**

Participating Programs

- ACCENT (inc. U of CA)
- Academic Programs Int'l (API)
- Boston University
- Brown University
- CEA Global Education
- Central College
- Center for University Programs Abroad (CUPA)

- Emory, Duke, Cornell & Tulane (EDUCO)
- Hamilton College
- Middlebury College
- New York University
- Tufts University
- Institute of American Universities-Avignon
- Dickinson College-Toulouse

Types of questions & items

- **Yes/No questions**

  Ex: Do you have your own blog?
  Ex: Did/Do you use ICT for purpose X (improving FL skills)?

- **Likert-scale items (5-point scale)**

  Ex: Compare your IT habits in U.S. versus France
  Ex: Would you benefit from explicit training on how to use technology
      to enhance your SA experience?

- **Open-ended questions**

  Ex: Briefly explain your response to the question regarding whether
  technology can be used to enhance the onsite experience.

Student Profiles   N = 355

- **Gender: 73% Female   27% Male**

- **95% in Paris-based programs**
- **92% studying in France for 1st time**

- **Academics: 46 different majors cited**

29%	declared double (or triple) majors
18%	French majors (single or double)
13%	International Studies or Relations
11%	Art History/Studio Arts/Fine Arts
< 10%	All other disciplines

Staff & Faculty Profiles N = 50

- **Status**:

    n = 25   Program administrators

    n = 20   Instructors (76% resident)

    n =   5   Admin & Faculty (both)

- Gender: Female: **70%**   Male: **30%**
- Age: < 40 yrs: **40%** > 40 yrs: **60%**
- SA exp: < 10 yrs: **46%**   > 10 yrs: **54%**

Student Responses

ICT used currently	Most frequent use	Overall use (all resp.)
1: E-mail	**48%** n = 168	**100%**
2: Facebook	**40%** n = 139	**99%**
3: SMS/IM	**5%** n = 19	**95%**
3: Skype	**5%** n = 19	**84%**

Reported time spent online

Preferred mode	Up to 2 hrs/day	3+ hrs/day
E-mail (n = 168)	77%	23%
Facebook (n = 139)	54%	46%
Skype (n = 19)	63%	37%

Student use of ICT in France

- **To communicate with profs** **71%**

- **To work on my language skills** **50%**

- **To learn about life in France** **41%**

- **To meet French or non-U.S. nationals** **36%**

- **To find or participate in groups & clubs** **31%**

Staff & Faculty: Use of technology

ICT used	For admin	For academics
E-mail	82%	68%
SMS	32%	12%
Skype	24%	8%
DVD/VHS	6%	46%
Blackboard	6%	24%
YouTube	2%	26%

Student vs. Staff Responses I

Item	Students	Staff/Faculty
I have my own blog/web page	36%	26%
Smartphone use*	62%	32%
Facebook use	99%	50%
Skype use	84%	56%

Student vs. Staff Responses II

Item	Students	Staff/Faculty
+ impact of ICT on learning & integration in host culture	**57%**	**60%**
Would benefit from explicit ICT instruction or training	**25%**	**76%**

Q. 9: Potential use of ICT

9 a. ***Can technology be used more effectively to enhance the study abroad experience on site?***

9 b. **If <u>YES</u>, specify in what ways or list specific tools & resources.**

If <u>NO</u> or <u>PERHAPS</u>, briefly explain why.

Student vs. Staff Responses III

Question 9a.	Students	Staff/Faculty
More effective use of IT to enhance exper.?	**86 %**	**76 %**
Yes/Probably	43 %	52 %
Perhaps	43 %	24 %
No	11 %	12 %
No opinion	3 %	12 %

Question 9 b : Reasons cited (stud)

Various suggestions made.   37.4%

Current ICT use is sufficient.   22.4%

« It depends ».   7.4%

Practical/technical issues cited.   5.7%
(poor connection, less availability, no wifi, etc.)

No reason given.*   27.2%

*Half of these students did not have part b on questionnaire.

Good news?   Bad news?

App. 23% of respondents cited ICT as potential « distraction » or detriment

- *I am here to see Paris, not the glow of a computer screen.*
- *It's always best to learn from one-to-one communication & interaction.*
- *Emphasis should be on going out & exploring the city!*
- *Technology gets in the way of doing.*
- *The more time I spend in English on e-mail & Facebook & Skype, the less I benefit from my experience in France.*
- *Part of the experience of studying abroad is figuring things out on your own.*

Sample student suggestions

- More **blogs** on French culture.
- Recommend **French sites** – fun, non-academic sites.
- An expat version of **Yelp** (restaurant & bar reviews).
- Use **Facebook** for updates <u>or</u> to post fun events <u>or</u> to link students in same program prior to arrival <u>or</u> to establish connection with French students prior to arrival.
- Online **message board**.
- **Blackboard**, for classes.
- **Class websites**.Class discussion chat rooms: Aim & Yahoo.
- Use of **podcasts** in French conversation classes.
- Partnership with software company like **Rosetta Stone**.
- **Orientation** to illustrate available tools; more guidance.

Food for thought…

« The Internet's resources for improving the experience are overshadowed by Facebook & YouTube's dominant Americanism. Students use technology for communication with the U.S.,rarely for finding new French stuff. France by day, U.S. by night (Internet in room). If performed, training for better use of technology must come <u>early</u> and be *very well constructed*. » (Student in Avignon.)

Recommendations

- Engage students in candid discussion of how IT may enhance <u>or</u> undermine their ability to integrate, how the host culture views and values communication.

- Explore creative ways to use technology for integrative purposes & resist the temptation to provide more info without guidance or follow-up. Exciting initiatives & inspiring models in Charlotte!

- Provide appropriate training to on-site staff, encourage & support them in their efforts to experiment with & incorporate technology.

- To Forum: Articulate guidelines, address IT use (e.g., workshops, separate conference?)

Sample task: Meeting local peers

Finding: 1/3 of students used ICT prior to departure and on site to meet French & non-US peers

Task: Suggest 3 specific ways in which students might be guided or encouraged to do this.

Who? How?/In what context? When?/At what point? How to follow up? Possible incentives?