

# UBC Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund

## Final Report – maximum 2 pages

Project Name: Learning Outcomes Assessment: Improving Teaching and Learning in International Service Learning

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Year of Funding: 3

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### Summary of Work Accomplished

- Employed 5 graduate students, from diverse academic disciplines, as project coordinator, and research assistants. We provided professional development opportunities in research, interviewing, NVivo software skills, project assessment, and data analysis.
- Pilot phase of project completed, with six case studies included. Through this process, framework for analysis was developed using a combination of NVivo and data matrices.
- Finalized the framework for Learning Outcomes Assessment project, through piloting different approaches to case management and reporting. The framework developed in year 2 was built upon and adjusted as needed.
- Significantly revised interview guide to create 3 separate guides according to dominant learning outcomes. Interviewed over 40 students who participated in ISL placements with 90 minute in-depth qualitative interviews.
- Adjusted the rubric where needed to clarify and better reflect student learning when rubric did not adequately represent what we were seeing in the student cases.
- Developed method for GRAs to summarize each student case for Primary Researchers to then analyze. This was done with a combination of NVivo and data matrices. Each case consists of 4 pieces of written work and the in-depth qualitative interview.
- Developed set of context variables to better understand how the context of the placement impacted student learning. This enables reporting by location of placement, type of work completed, year or program of study, et cetera, to more rigorously analyze the data and improve our program.
- Coded over 40 student cases using NVivo. GRAs worked together to ensure coding was reliable and consistent for each case and between GRAs. Peculiar cases were discussed with supervisors and coordinator. These cases were then inputted into NVivo to better manage the large quantity of data, and for ease of analysis across cases. This will assist with finding dominant themes in learning.
- Worked extensively in NVivo software program, and held one training session with 6 people to further develop skills within the program for data analysis.
- Designed the analysis framework that will be used to make meaning once all data is coded.
- Administered the pre and post experience BEVI (Beliefs, Events, Values Inventory) survey to over 70 students to better understand how students have changed. This will be used to triangulate the qualitative findings of this assessment project, and to deepen our understanding of student development. This involved direct communication with BEVI developer Dr. Craig Shealy from James Madison University to better understand the results of the BEVI. Work has also been done to deepen our understanding of the measures used in the BEVI to connect these more closely to our ISL rubric. This will enable a more thorough comparison.
- Findings from pilot phase of LOA project were presented to key stakeholders in CCEL Department in May 2013.

- Presentation of findings to date is scheduled for May 2014. These findings will be presented to CCEL department and other professors who are involved in ISL.
- We are still in the beginning process of analyzing student cases and creating summaries. From there, broader analysis will be done of student learning and our ISL program.
- Findings will be widely shared with the UBC community through public dissemination with key stakeholders in faculty meetings and collaboration with CTLT.
- Articles will be written on the process and outcomes for publication under the supervision of Dr. Dawn Currie, Faculty oversight on the project.
- Handbook for students engaging in international development activity through ISL courses will be sent to publishers for review by end of 2014.
- Presentation submission has been made to the International Association of Research on Service Learning and Community Engagement for fall 2014 to seek further engagement from international scholars on our findings to date.
- Contribution to a chapter on Applications and Implications for International, Multicultural, and Transformative Learning for the Forum BEVI project (published by Springer).

#### **Evaluation of Project's Success**

*Include evidence of rigorous evaluation.*

- Rigorous evaluation is the foundation and essence of this Learning Outcomes Assessment project. Our project is entering the final stage, but will continue while the TLEF funding remains.
  - Final reporting to the TLEF committee will be made upon completion of use of existing funds and final analysis of data.
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