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Overview and Goals

Students who choose to travel abroad and identify with a disability have a higher rate of hidden disabilities. Specifically for this grant, the focus was on mental health and Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Focus on academic support as well as daily living activities and residential environment.

Begin conversations with BW partners to identify and expand on supports offered to international students with disabilities.



Stuttgart

University of Stuttgart

Rebecca Schwenger and Sibylle Langer,
International Office

Dipl.agr. Sigrid Eicken, commissioner for
students with disabilities

Lia Schelhorn, Studierendenwerk

Heidelberg

University of Heidelberg

Elisabeth Trnka-Hammel, International
Office

Doris Gärtner, Student Services

Carolin Pfisterer-Weik, Disabled Students
Representative

Tübingen

University of Tübingen

Isabel Fischer, Studierendenwerk

Sarah Taylor and Kerstin McGaughey,
Oregon Study Center

Take-Aways

Marketing materials for program should represent people of varying abilities. Create information on what accommodations can be made while studying abroad (e.g. video, podcast, print, student stories, and info sessions).

Amplify students' voices: help student unions and groups with disability awareness training to become allies. Create survey for faculty, staff, and students to determine need and services.

Work with mobility International USA and state ministry to provide specific training opportunities to partner institutions for students and teaching faculty.

Financial and staffing resources should be expanded to provide consistent and quality services.

Connect colleagues in field of disability services across the exchange program to determine best practices and support each other, especially when under-staffed (e.g. listserv, regular Zoom meeting, or online/in-person conferences)

Long-term planning to create at least a 3-year plan of action items to implement assessment, trainings, and resource allocations and encourage follow-up on goals.



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