

**Annual Study Center Review
CIEE Study Center at Stellenbosch University
Stellenbosch, South Africa
2007**

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CIEE Academic Consortium Board Program Evaluation: N/A
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Each summer, program directors write a Study Center Review for each CIEE Study Center program commenting on the previous academic year. The program director writes the review based on input from the CIEE Academic Consortium Board members, resident directors, sending institutions, and student evaluations. Each report is made public on the CIEE website at www.ciee.org.

Program Goals

The CIEE Study Center at Stellenbosch University provides students with a range of academic and intellectual experiences that enable them to witness and take part in the complex process of transformation in South Africa. From the campus community to the greater society beyond Stellenbosch, students become participants in, rather than mere observers of, this dynamic and evolving environment. Through this process, students gain a comprehensive understanding of the evolving story that is South Africa.

Feedback from the Resident Director and 2006-07 students suggests that the program successfully achieved its goals. As one student commented in their program evaluation:

“Stellenbosch is a great place to stand face to face with the current and past issues of South Africa. Being able to witness and observe the transformation of South Africa first hand is amazing.”

New & Noteworthy Features

The CIEE Stellenbosch program started in fall 2006, so all elements of this new program can be classified as “new and noteworthy.” Overall, the program operated smoothly and provided students with a successful academic and cultural experience each semester. The CIEE Resident Director, Bradley Rink, received unanimous praise from all his students both semesters and is a clear reason behind the program’s successful inaugural year. Many students found Stellenbosch an ideal location to study about South Africa and experience the transformation process that is shaping the country’s future. Students often commented that Stellenbosch allowed them to combine the advantages of a major research university with the benefits of life in a small city.

Academics

Participants in this program enroll in a variety of courses including a required course, language courses, and subject area courses in the “mainstream” offerings or through the International Programmes Stellenbosch University (IPSU) track. All program participants are required to enroll in the required course Politics and Cultural Change in Contemporary South Africa. In addition, students (typically) enroll in four additional courses for a total of five Stellenbosch University courses. Student may enroll in

“mainstream” courses from a variety of faculties including: 1) Arts and Social Sciences; 2) Agriculture and Forestry Science; 3) Economic and Management Sciences; 4) Engineering; 5) Science; or 6) specially-designed courses in language and culture for international students, which fall under the department designator “International Programmes Stellenbosch University” (IPSU). However, enrollment in mainstream courses depends greatly upon the language of instruction of the individual courses, and the background and relevant coursework taken by the student.

CIEE students enrolled in the following Stellenbosch University courses during the 2006-07 academic year:

Course	Stream
Afrikaans for Beginners I	IPSU
Certificate in Community Engagement in South Africa	IPSU
Economic and Development problems in South Africa and Africa	IPSU
English 278: American Showdown: Identity In The Western	Mainstream
English 278: Gender & SA Media	Mainstream
English 278: Queer Studies	Mainstream
English 318: Popular Culture & the Aesthetics of Violence	Mainstream
English 318: Travel and Translation: Writing Africa	Mainstream
English 318: War & Civil Life	Mainstream
History 214: Key Processes in the Making of Western History	Mainstream
Introduction to Jewellery Design	IPSU
Introduction to the South African Wine Industry	IPSU
Overview of South African History	IPSU
Philosophy of Culture	IPSU
Photography	IPSU
Political Science: Comparative African Politics and Democratization	IPSU
Political Science: Conflict Resolution	IPSU
Political Science: Intro to African Politics	IPSU
Political Science: Justice in Conflict Societies	IPSU
Political Science: Negotiating Transition	IPSU
Political Science: Political & Foreign Policy of the USA	IPSU
Political Science: South African Politics	IPSU
Public Theology in Post-Apartheid South Africa	IPSU
Sociology: Politics and Cultural Change in Contemporary South Africa (CIEE Required Course)	IPSU
Southern African Music	IPSU
Theatre 314: Textual Analysis: Media & Film	Mainstream
Truth & Reconciliation Commissions	IPSU
Theory of Service-Learning	IPSU
Xhosa: Language and Culture	IPSU

Host Country Language

There is no language pre-requisite for the program, nor are students required to enroll in a host country language course. Although CIEE students are not required to enroll in a host country language course, the program does, however, have several special learning goals related to language:

- All students (regardless of enrollment in a language course) will learn culturally important expressions in Afrikaans and/or isiXhosa (or other South African languages) and use them in the appropriate contexts;
- Students will demonstrate their willingness, confidence, and skill in engaging actively and independently in the host culture by initiating conversations in target language(s) with staff, fellow students and locals on a regular basis.

In fall 2006, approximately 1/3 of the students chose to study Afrikaans at Stellenbosch University. In spring 2007, the percentage increased to over 50% of the CIEE students. Given the large number of local students speaking Afrikaans on campus, it is more common and perhaps practical for CIEE students to study Afrikaans than other South African languages during their time at Stellenbosch University. However, as the local student composition continues to become more diverse, it is likely that CIEE students will enjoy studying isiXhosa and other South African languages in future semesters.

Out of classroom activities

Out of classroom activities are not typically part of Stellenbosch University mainstream courses. Several of the IPSU courses, however, include excursions to places of interest to the subject matter of the course(s). Professor Tyrone Savage (Political Science) proved popular with the CIEE students. His courses included excursions and integrated research, some of which resulted in papers being published in local or international journals.

Non-Academic

Orientation

The CIEE Stellenbosch Resident Director provided students with an enjoyable and educational orientation program at the beginning of each semester. Orientation to life in South Africa continued throughout each semester with additional CIEE reflection/discussion activities and group activities. Student feedback on the orientation activities was extremely positive. In addition to providing students with important information on health and safety, Stellenbosch University academic issues, cultural considerations, and housing, the orientation allowed students to experience various communities in and around Stellenbosch.

A re-entry workshop was held each semester prior to the end of the term. Students worked with the CIEE Resident Director to discuss various re-entry challenges in both small group and individual exercises.

Cultural Activities/Field Trips

In order to enhance students' understanding of the political, social, and economic transformations occurring in South Africa today, CIEE organized a variety of local and regional activities and excursions each semester. The Resident Director sought out activities that focus on new and alternative perspectives to the process of transformation in South Africa. In 2006-07, students participated in the following CIEE activities and excursions:

- Cape Point/Cape Peninsula Excursion
- Pieter-Dirk Uys – Delheim Wine Estate: Fundraiser for Stellenbosch Child Welfare which included a farm-style dinner at Delheim Wine Estate and a performance by renowned South African performer and activist Pieter-Dirk Uys.
- *Ghoema*: a musical theatre production by renowned South African musician/writers/directors David Kramer and Taliep Petersen. The production has not only garnered great reviews for its music and staging, but the story itself provides an enjoyable introduction to South African history, and the long and rich tradition of music in this multi-cultural nation
- Franschhoek Valley Excursion. From its origins as a calving ground for elephants, to the site of the first free-hold land by coloured slaves (in Pniel), and the arrival of the Huguenots from France, this present-day food and wine capital of South Africa has many tales to tell.
- *Evita For President*: A show filled with political satire by Pieter-Dirk Uys.
- Hugh Masekela Concert
- Super 14 Rugby – Stormers (Cape Town) vs. Chiefs (New Zealand)
- Robben Island Excursion
- Documentary Films viewing and discussions
- Overnight Fieldtrip to Klein Karoo – Weltevrede Farm
- Students had the opportunity to explore rural South Africa and get a glimpse of life as many South Africans live it. CIEE students and staff stayed at Weltevrede Farm- a working fig farm in the Klein Swartberg range of the Great Karoo. Reaction from both students and staff was positive. The visit provides an opportunity to learn more about rural life, but also to rest and relax.

Housing

CIEE Stellenbosch students all live on campus in Stellenbosch University residence halls. During the 2006-07 academic year, students were housed in two different halls: *Metanoia*, a dormitory-style residence located in the heart of campus; or *Concordia*, an apartment-style residence on the edge of campus. Overall, students had positive things to say about both residence halls. Students living in *Concordia* are able to cook for themselves and have a more independent lifestyle, while those living in *Metanoia* appreciate the close interaction with local students and the ability to participate in campus student life. Some students in *Metanoia* complained about the quality/variety of meals served in the cafeteria, but the overall feedback was very good.

Community Engagement and Integration

For-Credit Internship and Community Service Options

During the fall 2006 semester, Stellenbosch University launched the Service-Learning and Community Development (SLCD) Certificate Program. The program is multi-faceted and includes both theoretical and practical components. Students can opt to do the full certificate program or take the Theory of Service-Learning Module. In spring 2007, three CIEE students participated in for-credit internship options and participated in the following projects:

- Cotlands Childrens Home: shelter for abused, abandoned, HIV positive, orphaned and terminally ill children from birth to fourteen years of age

- Pebbles Project: An NGO aiming "enrich the lives of children with special educational needs, particularly those affected by alcohol, through the provision of a training network and community support". Students are involved through service learning in a teacher capacity building program, extending the special education curriculum through a music project.
- Jessie Keet Crèche: Located in Idas Valley, a traditionally "coloured" community, Jessie Keet is a crèche (daycare) for pre-school children. The project support services aim to enhance organizational capacity, to improve human capital of teachers, to involve parents more and direct services focused on the education and care of small children.

Not-for-Credit Community Service/Volunteer Projects

CIEE provides students with various local community-service and volunteer opportunities during their time in Stellenbosch. In spring 2007, nearly 90% of the students participated in such activities, including projects at the following organizations:

- Watergarden Project: Located in Klappmuts, the project aims to create a safe environment where children can play under supervision, focusing on cognitive and motor stimulation as well as self-esteem enhancement. The Watergarden project adopts a community psychology approach as it aims to implement the five values namely prevention, empowerment, creating a sense of community, social justice, and maintaining an ecological perspective
- ISOS-Kayamandi Project: The Kayamandi project centers mainly on the Kayamandi
- Ikaya Primary School. On Wednesday's afternoons, students will have the opportunity to offer themselves as English tutors to the children. Friday afternoons are spent doing arts & crafts and playing sports with the children.
- Cotlands Childrens Home
- Habitat for Humanity ISB
- Jessie Keet Crèche

Challenges & Future Directions

Academic Challenges

Stellenbosch University is itself in the midst of a very highly charged debate over the language of instruction—essentially, the degree to which English can and will be used in the classroom. At present, Afrikaans is the official language of instruction on the undergraduate level, while English is used in almost all graduate level programs (with the exception of Theology). The "Language Debate" as it is officially called, is one not only tied to the issue of accessibility of the University to non-Afrikaans speakers (and that is to mean most Black South Africans) but also to the future of the Afrikaans language and culture. Many believe that this "Language Debate" is critical for the continued transformation of Stellenbosch University and the further development of its international programs.

CIEE student feedback regarding the required course "Political and Cultural Change in Contemporary South Africa" was quite negative. As a result, CIEE will explore the possibility of changing the core course requirement in the near future. The likely outcome is to offer students a choice of Stellenbosch University courses that fulfill the

“core course” requirement and support the general theme (transformation) of the CIEE program.

Non-Academic Challenges

Group dynamics during the fall 2006 and spring 2007 semesters were very good, and the Resident Director and students had extremely positive things to say about the interaction between staff and students.

Community engagement opportunities are readily available in and around Stellenbosch, but the Resident Director has noticed that some students find it difficult to fully integrate if they don't speak Afrikaans or isiXhosa. He will continue to encourage students to explore the variety of community engagement opportunities available and help them to get to know people outside of Stellenbosch University.

Future Directions

The CIEE Stellenbosch program enjoyed a successful first year, and student feedback regarding the academic and co-curricular components of the program indicated that students were very satisfied with their overall experience. In order to improve the program in future semesters, the CIEE Resident Director will continue to define and implement new program learning goals through the structure and activities of the program.

Stellenbosch University is going through a series of academic and political transformations and is thus appropriate for the goals of this new CIEE study center program. Students who participated in the program this year often praised the additional support that they received during their time at Stellenbosch and had positive things to say about the specially-designed CIEE program activities.

The CIEE Stellenbosch program helps compliment the two CIEE programs offered at the University of Cape Town and provides students with a unique academic environment, a smaller, more intimate set of program activities, and a rewarding study abroad experience on a beautiful university campus surrounded by the vineyards and mountains of the Western Cape.