

USE OF IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGY TO INCREASE STUDENT SELF-EFFICACY DURING STUDY ABROAD

SUMMARY

We propose to develop and test strategies rooted in simulation by using augmented reality using an immersive approach to decrease student anxiety and its negative effects in study abroad programs.

DESCRIPTION

The main objectives of this project are, through interdisciplinary collaboration, to A) train nursing students in the use of cognitive behavioral strategies and B) utilize existing VR technology to create realistic and powerful simulated experiences to train students to respond to situations and events they may encounter in their clinical practicum in Peru.



The realism of virtual environments created is supported by comparison of a physical space in the College of Nursing (A) as compared to students in its virtual representation (B). Panels C and D show related content created and/or optimized within the visualization lab.

MILESTONES

Summer 2018

Film study abroad setting

Summer 2018-Summer 2019

Build Visual Environment, Plan cognitive behavioral strategies, biofeedback assessment logistics, and self-efficacy assessment tools

Summer 2019

Intervention with students prior to study abroad

Summer 2019-Winter 2019

Analyze results

Winter 2019-Fall 2020

Plan and implement intervention with expansion to other study abroad courses

ABOUT OUR TEAM

Theresa Schnable, Team Lead

Simulation Coordinator/Clinical Instructor, College of Nursing

Shelly Malin, Adolescent Health Expert

Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Nursing

Christine Schindler, Study Abroad Faculty Expert

Clinical Assistant Professor, College of Nursing

John LaDisa, Director of Visualization Laboratory

Associate Professor, Biomedical Engineering

Karli Webster, International Education Expert

Associate Director, International Education

Jeff Roche, Cognitive Behavioral Strategy Expert

Counselor, Counseling Center

Our interdisciplinary collaboration of nursing, engineering, international education, and counseling staff and faculty, was formed in response to student anxiety exacerbation while in a nursing clinical in Peru. The team was formed to incorporate experts from multiple disciplines in the University to design a novel approach to better prepare students who are studying abroad with reflection and coping techniques for the stressful situations they may encounter.

BEYOND BOUNDARIES

This project contributes to the Marquette University Strategic Plan Beyond Boundaries through multiple facets, including the pursuit of academic excellence for human well-being. This intervention could give students with predisposing mental health risk factors the same access as their peers to valuable learning opportunities. These students can in turn develop competent and culturally sensitive quality patient care. Through development, testing, and implementation of innovative academic teaching strategies, we aim to improve student experience, mental health, and overall well-being.