Study abroad promotes global education

There is no substitute for being there, said Lee Radebaugh in his address to the Western Regional CIBER Conference. Which is why, he said, study-abroad programs are so beneficial to international business studies.

“When students spend time abroad, they get an up-close look at the business environment in an international setting as well as the customs and cultures of the country they are visiting,” said Radebaugh, director of the Brigham Young University CIBER.

“Set up the objectives of the trip well ahead of time,” Radebaugh advised. “Objectives should be developed so students can experience the differences and similarities between the political and economic systems of each destination country.”

As they cross borders, students will observe changes in the business climate and increase their awareness of how local and national traditions impact functional areas of business such as financial, marketing, supply chain, and human resource management.”

To facilitate this awareness, the agenda should allow time for public tours, visits to alumni, friends and acquaintances, sister universities, cold calling on businesses, and browsing in stores, said Radebaugh.

“Wherever possible set up meetings with officials of government agencies and chambers of commerce.” Visits to cultural and historical sites can also be illuminating.

Preparations for a study-abroad program must be all-encompassing. It is the responsibility of the faculty organizer to arrange for insurance, books and materials, transportation to the country and within the country, lodging and food.

He or she should make sure that everyone has a visa and passport. Also, there are health and safety concerns to be aware of that might or might not rise to the level of the 2003 SARS epidemic in Asia.

For additional information, check out these resources:

www.goabroad.com
www.iiepassport.com
www.studyabroad.com
www.lmu.edu/globaled

The Center for Global Education, an international resource center at Loyola Marymount University, states on its website, “The events of September 11, 2001 remind everyone that now more than ever, it’s important to promote and encourage global education through study abroad.”

The U.S. Department of State travel recommendations

The State Department’s website provides health and medical advice, entry requirements, road and aviation safety, and other miscellaneous facts as they apply to each country/city and region.

You’ll also find information about …
• travel warnings, travel alerts and country-specific information;
• how to contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate in the event of an emergency or for advice;
• current worldwide and regional announcements on terrorism and security country-specific information;
• how to contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate in the event of an emergency or for advice;
• current worldwide and regional announcements on terrorism and security cautions.

It’s also wise, according to the State Department, to keep passport, cash and credit cards locked in a hotel safe. If necessary to carry these items on your person, distribute them in various places rather than all in one wallet or pouch. Avoid handbags, fanny packs and outside pockets that are easy targets for thieves.

To learn more, log onto www.travel.state.gov and click on Tips for Traveling Abroad.