

# Studying Abroad in College:

## Investigating How A Living-Learning Community (LLC) Impacts Students

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Conference Proposal  
 + References

### CENTRAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

**INPUT:** What did students know about their host country before studying abroad in the living-learning community? What shaped their preconceptions about their host country?

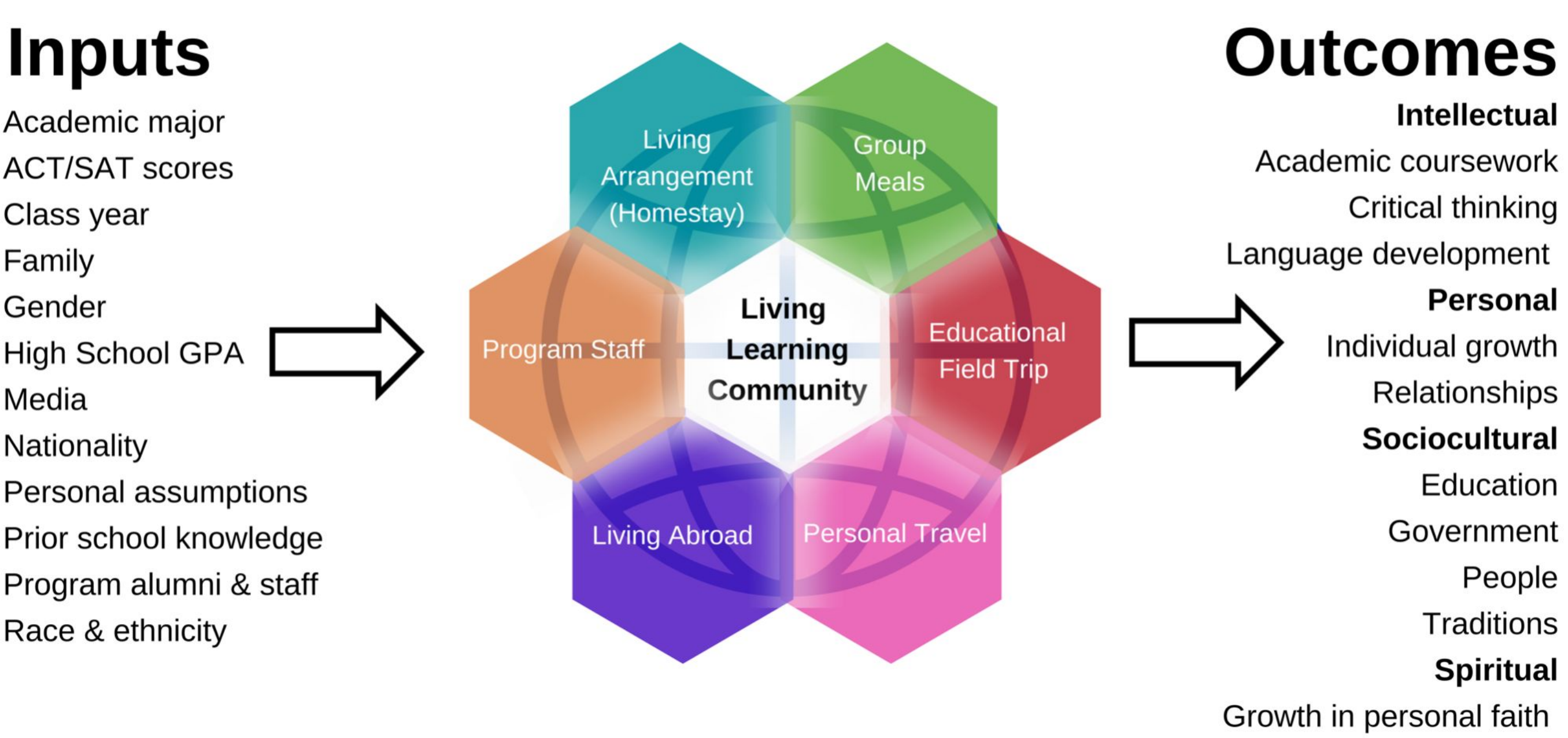
**ENVIRONMENT:** Which elements of their living-learning community positively impacted the students?

**OUTCOME:** How did students grow intellectually, socially, personally, and spiritually?

**ABSTRACT:**

The purpose of this mixed-method study was to identify which elements of a living-learning community (LLC) based in one of Pacific University's (pseudonym) signature study abroad programs influenced students' intellectual, personal, social, and spiritual growth. Thus far, 108 undergraduates completed an online survey composed of 32 questions that addressed five sections: 1) Consent, 2) Demographics, 3) Input, 4) Environment, 5) Learning Outcomes. Preliminary results found that personal travel, the educational field trip, and the program staff were the most influential factors in student development. Conclusively, 99.1% of participants reported intellectual, personal, and professional growth, while 76.1% reported spiritual growth.

Figure 1. Input-Environment-Outcome Model based on Astin (1984)



**REPORTED GROWTH**

<b>Intellectual</b>	Global Awareness 93.5%	Cultural Knowledge 96.3%	Travel Knowledge 96.3%
<b>Social</b>	Developing Relationships 99.2%	Local Cultural Activities 91.3%	Establishing Boundaries 85.4%
<b>Personal</b>	Independence 91.6%	Adapting to Change 90.7%	Leaving Comfort Zone 90.7%
<b>Spiritual</b>	Matured in Faith 76.1%	Did Not Mature in Faith 23.9%	

**RESULTS:**

- Top five factors that influenced students' preconceptions about their host countries:**
- 1) **Media:** Google, News, Television, YouTube, Movies (76.1%)
  - 2) **Friends** (58.7%)
  - 3) **Social Media:** Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, Twitter (57.8%)
  - 4) **Family** (55%)
  - 5) **Personal Assumptions/Stereotypes** (51.4%)
- Top three program elements that positively impacted students:**
- 1) Personal travel
  - 2) Educational field trip (EFT)
  - 3) Program staff

**METHODS:**

- Summer 2022
- Qualitative data from 108 American undergraduates who participated in at least one semester in one of Pacific University's\* 2021-2022 study abroad programs. (\*Pseudonym)
- Students' responded to a 32-question Google Forms survey with multiple-choice and open-ended responses that consisted of five sections: 1) Consent, 2) Demographics, 3) Input, 4) Environment, 5) Learning Outcomes



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

- Office of the Provost of Research, Pepperdine University
- Office of International Programs

