



Site visits in challenging times

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Site visits offers a form of active learning in which students develop their own “values, beliefs, behaviors, skills, insights, and particularly one’s overall disposition to critical and self-reflection” (Hanson, 2010, p. 81).

Hanson, L. (2010) Global citizenship, global health, and the internationalization of curriculum: a study of transformative potential. *Journal of Studies in International Education*, 14(1), pp. 70-88.

Site visits in challenging times

When planning ahead for next year it is useful to reflect on what has worked well in previous years.

Site visits and fieldwork are at the heart of the student experience.

The current COVID-19 situation presents a series of challenges.

What are some of the ways forward?

Importance of site visits

Enhances deeper learning and creates a greater understanding (Hill and Woodland, 2002)

Creates emotional responses (Marvell and Simm, 2018)

Provides a transformative experience for the student and facilitating the transition of theory into practice (Simm and Marvell, 2015; Hill et al. 2016)

Hill, J., Thomas, G., Diaz, A. and Simm, D. (2016) Borderland spaces for learning partnership: opportunities, benefits and challenges. *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*, 40(3), pp. 375-393.

Hill, J. and Woodland, W. (2002) An evaluation of foreign fieldwork in promoting deep learning: a preliminary investigation. *Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education*, 27(6), pp. 539-555.

Marvell, A. and Simm, D. (2018) Emotional geographies experienced during international fieldwork: an evaluation of teaching and learning strategies for reflective assessment. *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*, 42 (4), pp. 515-530.

Simm, D. and Marvell, A. (2015) Gaining a “sense of place”: students’ affective experiences of place leading to transformative learning on international fieldwork. *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*, 39(4), pp. 595-616.



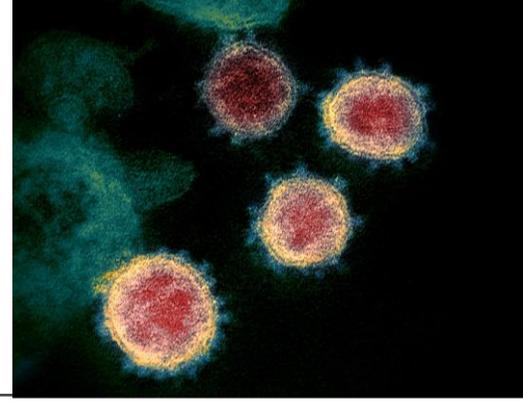
Cheltenham Town Hall



Gloucester Guildhall



COVID-19



Coronavirus Act (2020) Government restrictions on movement and social distancing

Businesses not open

Student visits are non-essential to many businesses

Heightened awareness of hygiene and personal space

Future students may not have a desire to travel and take part in site visits and fieldwork

Too much risk?



Alternatives?

Campus-based activities

Simulations

Online site visits and virtual trips

Case studies and videos

Application of theory through scenarios

or do something completely different!



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Conclusion

Lots of exciting visits may be put on hold for a year or two or even longer

The businesses that we had good relationships with may not be there

There will be other businesses, other opportunities

The important aspect is to prepare our graduates for a rapidly changing world

