

Pre-departure workshop





Bringing the
learning *home*

Exploration



pre-departure

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And to know the place for the first time.

T. S. Eliot, *Little Gidding*

exploration

goals



- **Encourage a sense of exploration**
- **Acquire concrete knowledge about the country you are visiting**
- **Heighten curiosity about your own country**
- **Encourage reflection on your own culture**

exploration

how does it feel?

A word cloud featuring various emotions and experiences. The words are arranged in a roughly circular shape, with some words being larger and more prominent than others. The colors of the words include shades of blue, orange, yellow, and purple. The words include: confusion, anxiety, look, money, work, wonder, loneliness, travel, success, fear, terror, living, exhilaration, amazement, escape, independence, joy, visas, homesickness, delight, freedom, friendships, trepidation, back, shock, food, failure, and joy.

anticipation

i remind myself that it is going to be amazing,
i am going to meet soooo many new people,
everything is going to be exactly the same
when i get back...

Lisa R.

anticipation

As Danielle writes:

**How does one fit their life
into a few bags?**



**So much will be left behind
– and not just clothes.**

anticipation

It's really confusing – you think,

'Why can't I function? Everything seems so similar, we speak the same language. I am perfectly capable of doing what I need to do here so why does it seem so difficult?'

Something is missing but you don't know what it is.

Student in Canada

disorientation

Exploration is a state of always being lost, because one is in a new place.

Explorers carry with them ‘a sense of optimism about surviving and finding their own way’.

Getting lost is about ‘the unfamiliar appearing’ where you didn’t see it before.

When you get lost, ‘the world has become larger than your knowledge of it’.

Getting lost is an opportunity for growth.

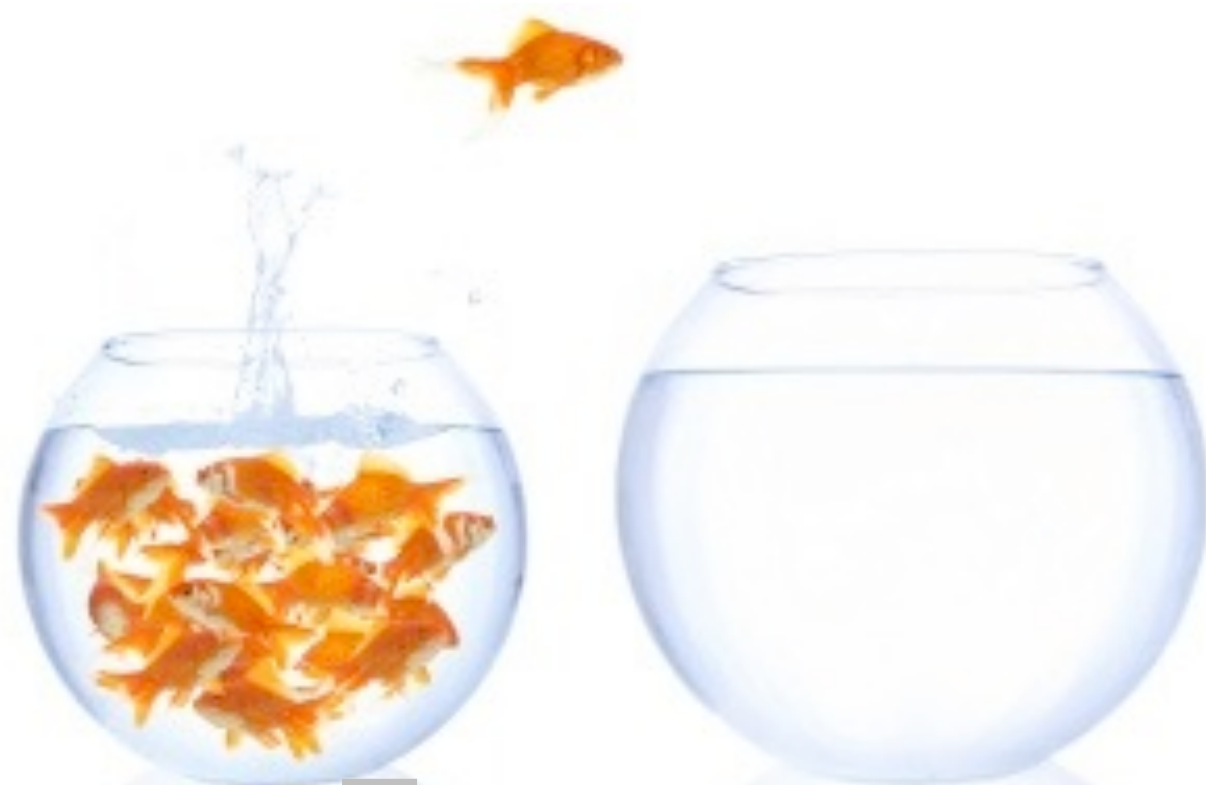
Rebecca Solnit, *A field guide to getting lost*

on getting lost



Bringing the
learning *home*

You need to start by doing
some basic research...



exploring home

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade homepage - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs an... +

www.dfat.gov.au

Most Visited Active Directory Auth... Lectopia: staff tool login hi whitepages.com.au Oz Students Abroad Fremantle Press : Boo... Million Dollar Tipping

About us | Jobs | Contact us | Site index | Twitter

Search Search

Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
 Advancing the interests of Australia and Australians internationally

Home Issues Trade Countries and regions About Australia Embassies Ministers Media Travel advice Passports Visas

Latest news

- Future Unlimited video animates global education campaign
- Trade Minister holds talks with Mexican counterpart
- Foreign Minister to attend first G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting
- Marles to meet Vanuatu Prime Minister
- Australia condemns attacks against Israeli diplomats in India and Georgia
- Australia's response to Sri Lanka's LLRC Report
- Escalating crisis in Sahel and Sudan
- Trade Minister consults business leaders on Asian Century
- Getting results from Australian international agricultural research

Trade discussions with Malaysia
 6 February 2012
 Dr Emerson meets with the Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry, Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, during trade discussions in Kuala Lumpur.
 » Speech: [Keynote Address to the Australia Malaysia Business Council and the Malaysia Australia Business Council](#)

Connect

Follow @DFAT on Twitter

DFAT videos on YouTube

EMERGENCY HELPLINE
24 Hour Consular Emergency Centre:
 1300 555 135 within Australia (local call cost) or +61 2 6261 3305 from outside Australia.

Air Australia cancellations
 Australians affected by the cancellation of Air Australia services from Phuket, Denpasar and Honolulu should get in touch

Foreign Affairs

Trade

start EXPLORATI... Exploration ... Inbox - Micr... Microsoft P... Google Ima... Australian D... EN 4:48 PM

Viktor was a very inquisitive man... He made it his mission to get out all the information I had on Australia... ranging from what were some famous Australian icons/celebrities/brands/foods; the metric system; the Australian dollar; house prices; Australians' average annual income; the distance between capital cities; the population and demographics; the weather... and the list continues....

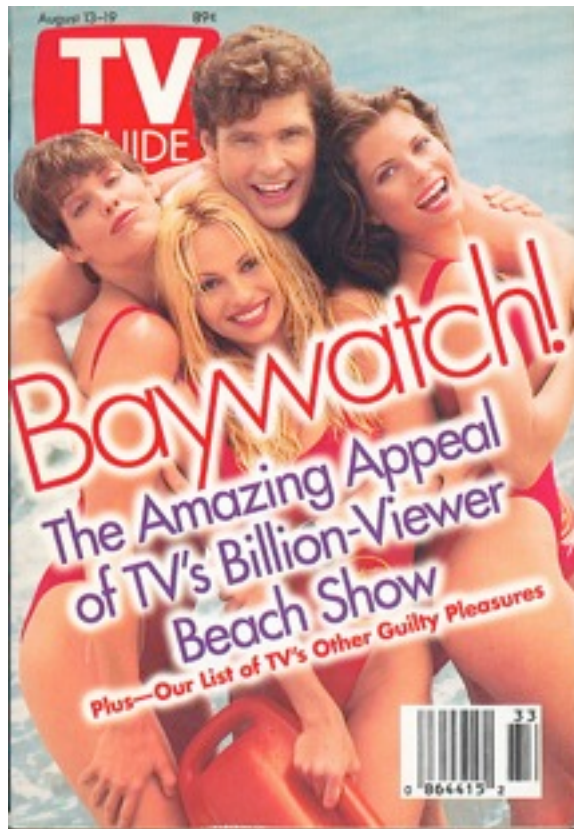
exploring home

I am starting to suspect that
Americans are not really interested
in my version of Australia.
They are more interested in
simplified caricatures and national
symbols, that offer them a more
comfortable albeit conventionalised
version of Australia.



exploring home

Photo 'Australia for Dummies' by Luke B.



Insofar as I had accumulated... expectations of Australia at all..., I had thought of it as a kind of alternative southern California, a place of constant sunshine and the cheerful vapidness of a beach lifestyle, but with a slightly British bent — a sort of *Baywatch* with cricket...

Bill Bryson, *Down Under*



exploring home

How well do you know **Australia?**



- Indigenous issues?
- Migration & refugee policies?
- Racism?
- Compulsory voting?

exploring home

I've noticed many weird things
about Americans and their
slightly skewed perception of
Australia.

The first thing is the fact that
the kangaroo is the first thing
that comes up in conversation.



misperceptions

Photo by Semuthutan, 2007.

Creative Commons license.

Original at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/azriadnan/2120116682/>



The stereotypes about Australia are so apparent when people start asking you questions like do you have Kangaroos in your backyard and other silly stuff like that.

Americans are very gullible and believe anything you tell them which can be funny at times.

misperceptions

Photo by Semuthutan, 2007.

Creative Commons license.

Original at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/azriadnan/2120116682/>



I don't exactly represent the quintessential Australian, but I offer some diversity that could potentially educate Americans about Australia, and relieve some of the simplistic views they might have of us.

I think that a country is more than just the image it projects, but sometimes the image is all people care to consider..

misperceptions

Photo, 'Australia Day - Thai Style,' by gxdoyle, 2010.

Creative Commons license.

Original at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/25792994@N04/5299579966/>



Photo, 'and your point is?' by monkeyc.net, 2006.
Creative Commons license.
Original at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/monkeyc/111177412/>

Photo, 'kangaroo meat' by Robert Schrader, 2012.
Creative Commons license.
Original at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/robertschrader/6889104777/>



Relations with **Australia?**

- **What are the particular relationships or trade issues between Australia and the country you will be visiting?**
- **Do we have many nationals from that country living in Australia?**
- **Any particular ongoing cultural/historical/political/economic relations?**
- **Is there any particular point about Australia which might interest people in your host country?**
- **Any points of conflict or potential issues?**

exercise

relations

A word cloud featuring various social and cultural topics. The words are in different colors (blue, orange, red, yellow) and sizes, arranged in a somewhat circular pattern. The word 'perceptions' is at the bottom in large grey letters.

public climate diet migrants sport
religion physical health foreigners
relationship land environment
transport care government position
housing populations indigenous
recreation language architecture
women voting

perceptions

Towards the end of orientation I left and went to my room and crashed, having not slept in nearly 48 hours.

When I lay down on the bed I was SHOCKED! The mattress was literally made out of some sort of plastic and was sooo uncomfortable. At this point i was sleep deprived, angry lonely and really missed home as this was the first time I would be away from my family for so long.

I lay there freezing and trying to sleep thinking how am I going to make it through the next three months. It was not a good feeling, I had never felt like this before, I just wanted to go home.

Sahil, USA

arrival

My first week here was the worst. I didn't have an official orientation so I had to walk around campus and discover everything on my own (UCLA is a massive campus). I had arrived on one of the coldest days, and my room did not have heating. I lay awake in bed for most of the night thinking about home.

I guess prior to departing I thought I'd get a great big warm welcome from the university, but sadly that did not happen! It's really quite a lot more difficult than I imagined, there's a lot more independence involved and if you need help you have to force yourself to ask for it.

I mean, really this is a great experience but it's not easy at all. I can safely say that not everyone is cut out for exchange!

Emily G. USA
arrival

getting ready **for arrival**

- **Look at your host university's website**
- **Revisit what previous exchange students have had to say about your host country**
- **See ozstudentsabroad.com**
- **Email host university's International Office - at least you will know whether they are helpful or not!**
- **Plan on taking up at least familiar activities and find out ahead of time how to do so!**

pre-arrival



It was an amazing and surreal experience to be driving a dog sledge and racing through the arctic wilderness in temperatures averaging negative 25 degrees celcius. This image represents the sense of freedom and adventure that ... gave me the confidence to embark on adventures such as dog sledging, snowmobiling, tobogganning on the Salzburg winter olympic track, horse riding in Iceland and snorkelling in the crack between the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates to name just a few!

Megan, 2011

exploration

BULA FROM FIJI!!! I realise that there are three things that are important to Fijians; Kava, Rugby and Church.

What surprised me at the beginning was that Islanders can be very shy especially around international students. Many presume (and sometimes they are right) that the international students are more than happy to stay together and they are shocked when you actually show interest that you want to do more than just be acquaintances.

Some of the highlights of the exchange experience is the moment where you transfer from being that Australian exchange student to being part of the group. And every time that it has happened, it has been while doing one of the three things mentioned above.

exploration

Katie, Fiji

developing a taste **for discovery**

- encountering the new & the unexpected
- getting lost
- but **that doesn't mean you don't need to plan ahead**



exploration

developing a taste **for discovery**

1. Write down five to ten things you would put on your 'must do' / bucket list for your exchange destination getting lost.



exercise

exploration

developing a taste for **discovery**

1. Write down five to ten things you would put on your 'must do' / bucket list for your exchange destination getting lost.
2. Group: Write a bucket list for visitors to Australia. Provide them with a realistic & balanced overview of Australian society, culture & way of life.



exploration

exercise

developing a taste for **discovery**

1. Write down five to ten things you would put on your 'must do' / bucket list for your exchange destination getting lost.
2. Group: Write a bucket list for visitors to Australia. Provide them with a realistic & balanced overview of Australian society, culture & way of life.
3. Review your own bucket list in light of the one prepared for incoming visitors.



exploration

exercise

Sometimes I feel guilty that I am spending too much time with the other international students and therefore I am missing out on other cultural experiences.

Then I realise that spending time with the other international students, who are mostly from the USA can be at times more of a cultural experience than hanging out with friends who live in Suva.

I've learnt so much about Americans while I am here. Some of them I love and others are so different from me in their attitudes and goals for their time in Fiji.

Katie B, Fiji

cautions



I've actually begun a list of crazy things other international students have said.

At the top of my list, and my current favourites, are "is Wales in New Zealand?" and "Katie, why don't you have an Australian accent?" (still don't understand what accent they think I have).

Katie B, Fiji

cautions

Photo by Leonard J. Matthews, 2010.

Creative Commons license.

Original at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mythoto/4306328650/>

... to arrive where we started
And to know the place for the first time.
on finding the foreigner in oneself

Robert Lane Green

coming home

How do you think that
foreigner will fit in
when you return?



coming home

Pre-departure workshop



Thank you!



Exploration pre-departure workshop

The *Bringing the Learning Home* Team: Jan Gothard (Murdoch), Greg Downey (Macquarie), & Tonia Gray (Wollongong).

The BLTH Students at all three institutions.

For more information: ozstudentsabroad.com or <http://www.tlc.murdoch.edu.au/project/btlh/>



Bringing the
learning *home*

Credits



With the exception of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms, and where otherwise noted, all material presented in this document is provided under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia licence (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/>).

The details of the relevant licence conditions are available on the Creative Commons website (accessible using the links provided) as is the full legal code for the CC BY 3.0 AU licence (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/legalcode>).

Requests and inquiries concerning these rights should be addressed to:

Office for Learning and Teaching

Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education
GPO Box 9880, Location code N255EL10
Sydney NSW 2001

learningandteaching@deewr.gov.au



licence