

Extending the classroom: The use of a study tour and student journal writing in an international economics and finance course

Marilyn Clark-Murphy
School of Accounting, Finance & Economics
Edith Cowan University

Ray Boffey
School of Accounting, Finance & Economics
Edith Cowan University

Contact details for principal author:

Postal address: Faculty of Business & Public Management, 100 Joondalup Drive,
Joondalup, Western Australia 6027

Telephone: 08 6304 5565

Fax: 08 6304 5271

Email: m.clarkmurphy@ecu.edu.au

Study tours and student journals, although popular in other disciplines, do not appear to have been widely used in finance and economics courses. We report on an international study tour offered within a business degree to students majoring in finance and economics. By taking the study tour, visiting a range of countries and institutions, students are given an opportunity to see the application of theory in global markets. Such tours support the internationalisation of the curriculum, giving students a broader context in which to locate their studies. The addition of student journals as a learning tool is discussed. We find that writing a journal encourages and facilitates effective learning by causing participants to reflect immediately on what they learn during the study tour, to crystallise their thoughts and to unite their experiences with classroom theory. While demanding, the study tour has proven a popular learning experience for both staff and students.