

Dear Higher Ed and International Ed Students,

I am excited to share with you an exciting opportunity for graduate students in the College, particularly those in the College Student Personnel, Higher Education, and International Education programs. This coming January term (2010), one of our CSPA PhD students, Beth Niehaus, and I will be leading a two-week study abroad trip to Qatar to explore how American higher education is being implemented in the Middle East.

Educational developments in Qatar over the past decade and a half provide a unique context for graduate students in these programs to explore the complexities facing the American model of higher education in an international context. The Qatari government, through the Qatar Foundation, has worked with six American universities to establish branch campuses in Qatar.

As you may know, these branch campuses offer undergraduate degrees in journalism, foreign service, design, engineering and computer science, and graduate degrees in journalism.

<http://www.qf.edu.qa/output/page3.asp>

Staff at these American branch campuses are faced every day with the challenges of modifying the American model of higher education to meet the needs of an international and incredibly diverse student body. This study abroad experience will focus on the student experience and the student affairs professional staff working with these students.

If you are interested in taking part in this study abroad experience, please check out our web site at <http://www.international.umd.edu/studyabroad/8530>. This study abroad experience earn three credits EDCP 789E: American Universities in the Middle East: The Qatar Experience. GA tuition remission credits apply to total trip cost.

We will be holding an information session on Thursday, August 6 at 5:00 pm in Benjamin room 3233. If you cannot attend the info session and would like to be kept informed about the developments for the course, or have any questions, please contact Beth Niehaus at eniehaus@umd.edu.

Thank you and have a great remainder of your summer,

Susan Komives

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