

BALI SIE IMMERSION - SAMPLE:
STUDENT INSTAGRAM "TAKEOVERS"
STUDENT BLOG POSTS
STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

During the program, students were responsible for two posts on the official SIE Instagram account and two blog posts on the SIE website as one of the many ways we facilitated reflection and to share their insights with our Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship community.

As part of our social innovation sprint with local university students, our group ventured out into the community to conduct interviews. Knowing our mission, our "bemo" driver offered to take us to his village and introduced us to his neighbors, who were also new parents to twins. Before we knew it, the whole village had surrounded us and the babies were placed in our arms. We were invited into a simple house and learned this sweet couple's story. Not only did we get great insights into our research about non-formal education in Bali, but we had an unforgettable experience, truly immersed in the culture. It just goes to show how language or cultural barriers can be so easily crossed by genuine hospitality and kindness.

*SIE Bali Immersion Takeover ~
Hannah King*



This might just look like someone's hands harvesting some cashews, but it was part of something much bigger - East Bali Cashews! Minos, one of the interns at EBC and whose hands are pictured, taught us about what makes cashews thrive in this oh-so dry region and, in turn, how cashew farming and this social enterprise empower the local people. Such holistic social impact models can be critical to last-mile communities such as Desa Ban. By processing the raw cashews in the same community they're grown, these cashews become a delicious and powerful opportunity for its 400+ employees. So grateful to have had such an intimate look into East Bali Cashews!

*EBC Bali Immersion Takeover ~
Elaine Mae Ignacio*



Here at East Bali Cashews award-winning social enterprise, workers with children are provided a safe space for their kids to learn, grow, and be nurtured while their parents can earn a steady income. Not only do they provide childcare, East Bali Cashews assures all workers, particularly women, can sustain a livelihood by providing health insurance and opportunities to move up the ladder with scholarships and managerial trainings.

*EBC Bali Immersion Takeover ~
Sofia Villamizar*



The community here is close-knit and extremely passionate about their efforts in environmental and sustainable development. During the heaviest rains, lasting from December through January, the rivers in the mountains often overflow. Sediment as well as chemicals and debris picked up by water flooding the roads can wash into the sea, disrupting coral growth. Above is a photo of a system developed by the community to help guide the flow of water from the mountains out into the sea, which is especially helpful in the rainy season. This helps to ensure a more direct path for the water, offering an outlet to help combat flooding within the village and lessen the pollutants picked up by runoff.

*ISE Bali Immersion Takeover ~
Mackenzie Clark*



Visiting the R.O.L.E. Foundation in Bali was a very impactful experience. We learned about so many sustainable methods that anyone can practice at home - from making recycled paper and soap, to composting. We discussed the harmful effects that plastic waste and certain fishing methods have on marine life. Practicing and enforcing sustainable methods are critical to protecting our world and future generations. We should not be overwhelmed by the challenge these issues present, but rather, let it motivate us to create and implement systemic change.

*ISE Bali Immersion Takeover
Nicole Ferrara*



Our time with Undiksha University students was in a word, awesome. Not only did we have the chance to collaborate on some really pressing issues, we had the opportunity to bond so deeply at East Bali Immersion. We looked up at the stars each night, played games, hiked, and laughed together. I'm forever thankful for my new friends and can't wait to come back and visit again soon...

*SE Bali Immersion Takeover ~
Jena Whitesman*



These photos were taken at the Agung Rai Museum of Art, which exists to help sustain the traditional Balinese culture. These pictures represent the uniqueness of the art culture here in Bali, as well as the efforts to preserve tradition through education.

*SE Bali Immersion Takeover ~
Morgan Dake*



MORE THAN WHAT MEETS THE EYE

By Denise Lipman

Summer 2018



Looking at the beautiful scenery and landscapes in Bali, it's easy to overlook the drama that ensues beneath the surface. We've spent two weeks on this amazing island, and we've only scratched the surface of this rich culture that is so interconnected with its environment, its people, and its purpose. Perhaps one of the most painfully difficult things to learn about throughout the past few days was the sheer degree of coral bleaching that is occurring off the coast of Pemuteran. After learning so much about the story of Biorock technology and its impacts on the local people, I was very eager to see all the coral that would be thriving underneath the surface. Much to my dismay, although snorkeling was such an amazing experience, it dawned on me that what I was experiencing was not what was pictured only a few years ago. Upon interviewing the stakeholders, we later realized that although tourism may have contributed to the degradation of these Biorock coral ecosystems, it was more runoff from the island during heavy rain seasons that brought large amounts of sediment that damaged the coral. Throughout the entirety of this trip, the deeper you try to understand a topic, the more questions it creates. We learned about the Biorock story and through a different perspective, the degradation of coral is a symptom of the larger social problem of poverty that people face. Look at it from another perspective, and it's another consequence of the rise of global warming. Overall, the more you begin to unravel the stories that these images begin to tell, the more you realize that everything is in its entirety connected to everything else in this world. There is such a deep connection of the environment, the culture, and the people, that to begin to understand it, you must dive so deep and learn so much to truly start to appreciate what is around you.

A photograph of two women smiling. The woman on the left is wearing a dark patterned top. The woman on the right is wearing a white top and has a colorful lei around her neck. In the background, there is a poster with the text 'BUMBU-BUMBU KEBAHAGIAAN' and a list of five items: 1. KEBERSAMAAN, 2. KEPEDULIAAN, 3. KERUKUNAN, 4. KEPERCAYAAN, 5. KASIH SAYANG. To the right, there is a sign that says 'WOMEN'S CENTRE - BALI' and 'A TEACHER SCHOOL LESSON'.

EVERY MOMENT

By Morgan Dake
Summer 2019

Twelve days ago, I got off of a plane in Bali, Indonesia with high expectations for what my semester abroad would deliver. However, 12 days ago I had absolutely no idea that the opportunity to learn would extend so far beyond the small circle of our class discussions. Up to this point, although I have had overwhelmingly positive experiences with the people I've met, the non-profits I've visited, and the time I've spent getting to know the Balinese culture, it wasn't until visiting the PKP Women's Center that first week of the program that my perspective shifted in a way that profoundly influenced me and my experiences. I'm really keen on the idea that everything happens for a reason; attempting to find the good in all situations is what fuels me to keep looking forward. The PKP Women's Center was built from the ground up by a woman who chose to do just that. In her worst seasons of life, she managed to find her purpose. The Women's Center exists in Bali to serve as a safe environment for marginalized women as well as children with special needs to come together to learn, encourage each other, and establish independence. It was here that I was introduced to the mission of the Center:

“EVERYBODY is a teacher, EVERY PLACE is a school, EVERY MOMENT is a lesson in time.”

These three insights brought to life my person philosophy and have had a formidable impact on the way I have experienced these first 12 days in Bali. I think that it can be really easy to get lost between the studying aspect and the abroad aspect of a program. For me, absorbing these words has allowed me to make the absolute most of my time studying abroad. While the scheduled site visits, case studies, and discussions have provided me with copious knowledge on the field of Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the “in-between” moments have instilled me with knowledge that goes beyond what you can learn from a textbook. On top of the course material, the conversations I've had, the relationships I've built, and the moments we've shared have proven to be the greatest lessons of all.

A person with long dark hair, wearing a patterned top, is sitting in a grassy field. In the background, there is a large mountain with a reddish-brown peak, likely Mount Agung, under a clear sky. The scene is bathed in the warm light of a sunset or sunrise.

UNPLUGGED, UNIMAGINABLE, UNFORGETTABLE

By Charlie Gardner
Summer 2019

Staring down from the tips of mountains over the never-ending ocean as the sun dips below the horizon... weaving through traffic down unimaginable roads that seem to stretch on forever... gazing into the starry night as comets light up the sky through the cascading Milky Way... all while learning with unforgettable people about the importance of this magical culture in Bali and its lessons for addressing the urgent social and environmental in the world. This study abroad experience in Bali, Indonesia has been the most inspiring learning experience I have ever had the pleasure of partaking in. The past four weeks have been day after day of traveling, interacting, learning, and fun. So much has happened throughout this whole trip, but I wanted to touch on three of my favorite experiences in this blog post. First of all, the sunsets and sunrises here have been indescribable to say the least and picking my favorite would not be possible. The sunrises turned me into a passionate early-riser while the sunsets turned into a time for reflection and deep thoughts. They were a huge part of this trip for me and definitely worth mentioning. Moreover, our visit to East Bali Cashews represented three of the most introspective and blissful days of my life. Nestled on the side of Mount Agung in comfy “glamp-style” bamboo buildings, we spent these days without any access to internet. Living in America, it is hard to imagine a life without any technology, but East Bali Immersion truly opened my eyes to how little we actually need it. On top of the beauty of where we were, we also got to build relationships with the Undiksha University students in Bali during this visit, which brings us to our third experience. The memories I formed with the Undiksha students during the week that we got spend with them were ones that I will never forget. The Social Innovation Sprint was a grueling process, but we formed bonds with these people that you would not think possible in only a week. It was extremely sad to see them go at our celebration dinner, but we all left with a sense of hope to see each other again in the future. All in all, this trip to Bali has been something that changed the course of my life and opened me up to a new sense of culture, spirit, and purpose that I would never have known otherwise. I have been inspired through this magical island and its people, and I hope others follow very soon.



PASSION INCUBATOR

By Gaby Scott
Summer 2018

“The most powerful weapon is the human soul on fire.”

Seventeen American university students traveled to Bali this summer with various desires, dreams, and goals for this trip. No matter what brought us here individually, I believe we might all be leaving this incredible island with a little more passion in our lives. Passion about our paths in life, our friends, the world we share, and our potential for positive change. I don't think we can think of our journeys here as coming to a conclusion. I believe this is just the beginning for us. Whether we already have a social enterprise, are just now learning about the field of social innovation & entrepreneurship, or just have an inkling of what we want to do with our path as innovators, I think not one of us is leaving this trip without knowing that we do indeed have the capacity to catalyze change in the world. If there is one thing that every innovator left with us in all of our numerous site visits and interactions is that change begins when we decide to make it happen. There is no perfect moment to start creating positive change in the world. The world's issues will not take a day off. Unjust equilibriums will not adjust themselves. Disadvantages will not become advantageous and the disenfranchised will not be spoken for unless we make the decision to do so. I will no longer question my ability to be vessel of positive change. Whether some of us become Ashoka Scholars and some of us simply swear off plastic straws, we've all been bestowed with the encouragement from those who have made it work before us. Flying across the globe and learning from Changemakers touches you as a young person wanting do this. I know our journeys will not be simple or without disappointment, but the sooner we fail, the sooner we may succeed. Bali has made warriors out of these seventeen Americans. Before this trip, we were passionate about changing the world but had yet to find the way in which we would accomplish this lofty goal. We were unbridled and a little inexperienced, but Bali has concentrated our passions. I've seen how this voyage has centered our energy and our belief in ourselves as vessels of positive change. Bali has become a passion incubator for all of us on this trip. It has given us the environment to mold and grow in such a short period of time that I have no doubt we will turn into diamonds under pressure when it comes to it. Bali has made me believe in myself and my generation as the next great wave of positive influence in the world. Bali was my passion incubator, and I am on my journey to finding myself as a social innovator.

GAINING MOMENTUM

By Tonya Shaw

Summer 2019



As we approach our final week here in Bali, my experience has been nothing short of transformative. Coming into this program, I had a personal goal to practice mindfulness as well as reflect deeply on my intentions and desires as I approach my final year at Florida State. At East Bali Immersion, I did just that as I was blissfully unplugged, no social media, no emails, no texts—just my thoughts to keep me occupied. I was tasked with learning how to be present and freely allow my thoughts, whether positive or negative, to surface. Overlooking the gorgeous mountains as the sun set, I have never encountered such peace and tranquility. Coming from a fast-paced lifestyle, I realized how little I take the time to enjoy the beauty that is in front of me. At East Bali Immersion, we had the chance to reflect deeply but also to continue exploring a societal issue in Bali that we could shed light on and possibly make even a modest contribution towards addressing. Working alongside the Undiksha University students, we quickly formed unbreakable bonds. We openly exchanged thoughts and opinions, learning from one another with the overarching desire to understand how together we might create systemic change in our communities. Our Social Innovation Sprint replicated that of a sprint in real life, where one must prepare, gain momentum, and lastly finish strong. To prepare, we had to immerse ourselves in the culture. This was done by building relationships, making conversation with local stakeholders, and learning and respecting their traditions and values. To build momentum, we gained insight into our focused issue while exploring in the streets of Bali, speaking to locals, government staff, nonprofit leaders, and any other stakeholders that could help us further understand the issue at hand. And lastly, we had to finish strong, combining our secondary research with our field research within a very limited time. Even when our energy was depleted, we pushed to the end, shedding light on important issues and inspiring future Changemakers to carry out systemic change.

BALI SIE IMMERSION: STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

This program was literally the most amazing thing I have done in my life.

*Morgan Dake
Summer 2019*

You know so well that this has been transformational for me...

*Jade Jurski
Summer 2019*

The impact we saw in 30 short days was enough inspiration for a lifetime of public service.

*Ana Gabby Scott
Summer 2018*

All in all, this trip to Bali has been something that changed the course of my life and opened me up to a new sense of culture, spirit, and purpose that I would never have known otherwise.

*Charlie Gardner
Summer 2019*

It is a shortcoming to simply say that this experience was life-changing. I could never put into words the amount of growth that this entire process has given me. Being immersed in such a rich culture and having hands-on experience in the world of social innovation & entrepreneurship was invaluable. I am so very humbled and grateful to have had this experience.

*Lauren Moorefield
Summer 2018*

Every day is designed to open the student's mind. Nearly every night I went to sleep saying to myself 'I cannot believe I just got to do that.'

*Sean Pfeiffer
Summer 2018*

I will also try to have a greater appreciation for everything I have and the opportunities I am presented. Not just because some people have so little, but because everything we did on this trip was such an incredible once-in-a-life time experience that I gained so much insight from. I feel like now I have a deeper level of understanding for the world, its people, and other cultures, and it opened up new and deeper layers of myself. This has been a completely life-transforming experience, and I am so lucky to have had this opportunity. I'll sleep on the floor of the forest with no AC or hot water if it means I can participate in this experience again.

*Nikki Ferrara
Summer 2019*

The opportunity for learning is infinite when there are so many resources to explore, versus only reading what authors or scientists want you to read about. I have felt this same feeling throughout our entire trip. Being able to talk directly to the founders or team members of social enterprises and nonprofit organizations and different impact initiatives shows the incredible passion that goes into every organization. I love being able to witness this passion and see an organization as more than solely their data; to discover and even experience the story that is behind everyone.

*Kaylee Curry
Summer 2019*

When I was signing up for this trip, I really had no clue what to expect. Being a Finance major, I have never taken a course in Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship and hardly had an idea of what the subject was about. I've learned so much about social entrepreneurship and social enterprises through an experience-based approach. This immersive experience, and particularly the Social Innovation Sprint with the Undiksha University students, has also reinforced how inexplicably complex life is. There are so many variables that go into every problem that it is easy to get overwhelmed. But if there's one thing I've learned so far from this program, it's that you just have to take it one step at a time. Figure out the problem you want to address and embrace all of its layers. In the end, however, this program offered invaluable experience, explained empathy, and exceeded my expectations in every aspect.

When I first signed up for this program, I was scared. Besides one other person, I didn't know anyone else going on the trip. I didn't know what the people would be like or if they would even like me. But now as the program comes to an end, the only thing I'm scared about is the idea of not seeing these people again, especially the Undiksha students.

*Chase Silberbusch
Summer 2019*