



Mobility International USA

The National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange

Self Assessment on Inclusion of Participants With Disabilities in International Exchange Programs

Many international exchange organizations want to include everyone regardless of disability in the life changing experiences they offer. To help programs navigate some of the most common issues surrounding including participants with disabilities on international programs the National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange has created this self-assessment tool.

How to use this Assessment Tool:

This tool is an informal assessment of programmatic accessibility for international exchange programs. This assessment may be completed by the staff member responsible for access issues, by the head of a program, or can be completed by each staff member for an overall view.

Assessing Personal and Institutional Practices

1. Staff perceives participants with disabilities as an asset.

Yes No

2 Disability is included in our organization's statement of non-discrimination.

Yes No

3. Our program discourages certain destinations for participants with disabilities due to inaccessibility.

Never Rarely Often Always

4. Staff assists participants in identifying challenges and how to address those issues at less accessible sites

Never Rarely Often Always

5. Our program has the funding to include people with disabilities.

Never Rarely Often Always

6. Our overseas partners understand and accept that there will be participants with disabilities on our programs.

Never Rarely Often Always

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7. Staff ensures participants with disabilities don't take on more than they think the participant can handle.

Never Rarely Often Always

8. When discussing issues of diversity in our programs we include disability as a consideration.

Never Rarely Often Always

Staff, Volunteers and Host Families

9. Our program employs staff with disabilities.

Yes No

10. Staff are aware of and implement simple/low-cost methods for achieving accessibility in the host family environment.

Yes No

11. Our program recruits host families with disabilities.

Yes No

12. Our program recruits volunteers and interns with disabilities.

Never Rarely Often Always

13. Our program places both disabled and non-disabled participants with host families with disabilities as a way to expose participants to another element of the culture.

Never Rarely Often Always

Accommodating Participants with Disabilities

14. Accommodating participants with disabilities is expensive.

Never Rarely Often Always

15. Our program uses a standard process through which any participant can request disability related accommodations.

Never Rarely Often Always

16. Our organization budgets for providing disability-related accommodations.

Never Rarely Often Always

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17. When looking at new partners or renewing contracts our program looks for Site accessibility.

Never Rarely Often Always

18. When looking at new partners or renewing contracts our program staff looks for openness to participants with disabilities.

Never Rarely Often Always

19. When looking at new partners or renewing contracts our program staff asks about cultural perceptions of disabilities?

Never Rarely Often Always

Public Relations and Outreach

20. Our program materials encourage participants to self-identify as a person with a disability needing accommodations early in the process.

Yes No

21. We make it clear that disclosure of a disability will not result in automatic disqualification from the programs we offer.

Yes No

22. Our promotional materials feature images of participants and/ or people with disabilities.

Never Rarely Often Always

23. We provide information on disability specific organizations in the countries where we have programs.

Never Rarely Often Always

24. We provide information on funding, fellowships and scholarships related to disability.

Never Rarely Often Always

25. We ask alumni with disabilities to serve as recruiters or peer advisors.

Never Rarely Often Always

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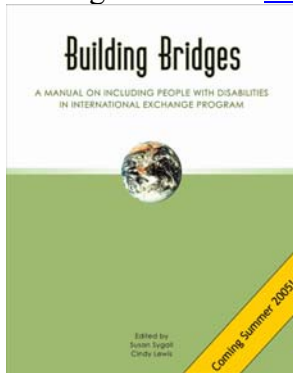
26. We place recruitment materials with university disabled student support offices.

Never Rarely Often Always

27. We place recruitment materials with guidance counselors for students with disabilities.

Never Rarely Often Always

Thank you for taking the time to assess your organization's ability to provide a great international experience to anyone who wants one, regardless of disability! Below are resources to help you as your organization works to provide the best quality program. If you would like to talk to other organizations about your experiences, as well as hearing what others have done in answer to similar problems, consider joining our Colleague-to-Colleague Network <http://www.miusa.org/ncde/organizations/ccn>.



Building Bridges: A Manual on Including People with Disabilities in International Exchange

Editors: Susan Sygall & Cindy Lewis

Copyright: 2006 by Mobility International USA/National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange

262 pages

PRICE: \$24.95 plus 3.95 shipping/handling charge

ISBN: 1-880034-37-9

"People with disabilities participating in exchanges have additional roles: we build bridges and we break down barriers for others with disabilities."

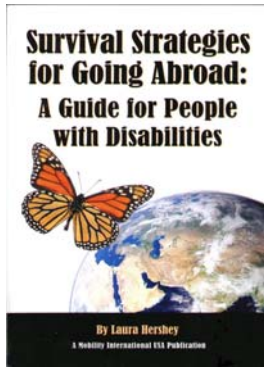
- Anatoli Ilyashov, Fulbright Scholar, historian and disability activist

This comprehensive manual features practical suggestions and creative ideas for including, recruiting and accommodating people with disabilities in international exchange programs. *Building Bridges* also addresses cross-cultural issues and international service

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Author: Laura Hershey

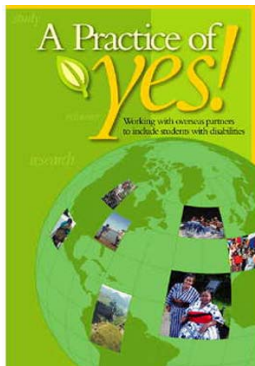
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225 pages

Price: \$16.95

ISBN: 1-880034-70-0

In *Survival Strategies*, more than twenty experienced travelers with disabilities share stories, tips and resources related to participating in international programs. This easy-to-use guide addresses the disability-related aspects of going on an international exchange, including choosing a program, applying, preparing to travel, adjusting to life in a new country and returning home. Find a wealth of useful information and advice to help in planning experiences abroad.



A Practice of Yes! Working with Overseas Partners to Include Students with Disabilities

Edited by: Lorna McLeod and Michele Scheib

Copyright: 2005 by Mobility International USA

48 pages

[Free download](#)

ISBN: 1-880034-45-X

This handy, quick-reference guide, designed for exchange professionals working with overseas partners to place students with disabilities in exchange programs, includes

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common concerns voiced by overseas partners and real world answers from experienced exchange



Rights and Responsibilities: A Guide to National and International Disability Related Laws for International Exchange Organizations and Participants (2nd Edition)

Highlighting international laws and policies related to disability issues and case studies and stories of how these rights and responsibilities have been put into practice.

For access to more resources, please visit (and bookmark) our website www.miusa.org/ncde.

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