



Examining the First Cohort in an International Synchronized Online Hybrid Program in Educational Leadership

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Objectives



- Brief overview of partnership program
- Discuss benefits
- Discuss challenges of the first cohort
- Review what has been learned
- Discuss ideas for future planning



Overview of partnership program

- ▶ Goal to establish a PhD in Educational Leadership and Administration for Taibah University in Medina, Saudi Arabia
- ▶ Years of planning, negotiating, and communicating
- ▶ Hybrid Design
 - ▶ GW professors teaching first year
 - ▶ Six courses making up a Post Master's Certificate
 - ▶ Synchronized Online Live Sessions
- ▶ First Cohort started in 2017
- ▶ 8 students




Benefits

- ▶ Actual
 - ▶ Expanded Knowledge for both partners
 - ▶ K12 systems comparative knowledge –
 - ▶ Exposure to a new system helps us reflect on our own
 - ▶ International Relationships between faculty, staff, and students
- ▶ Forthcoming Benefits
 - ▶ Expanded dissertation experience
 - ▶ Expanded comparative research
 - ▶ Expanded collaboration in research




Challenges of the first cohort

- ▶ Communication and Trust
 - ▶ Already established
 - ▶ Still challenged
- ▶ Cultural Differences
 - ▶ Students expectations
 - ▶ Teaching methodologies
 - ▶ Grading
- ▶ Logistics
 - ▶ Technology
 - ▶ Setting

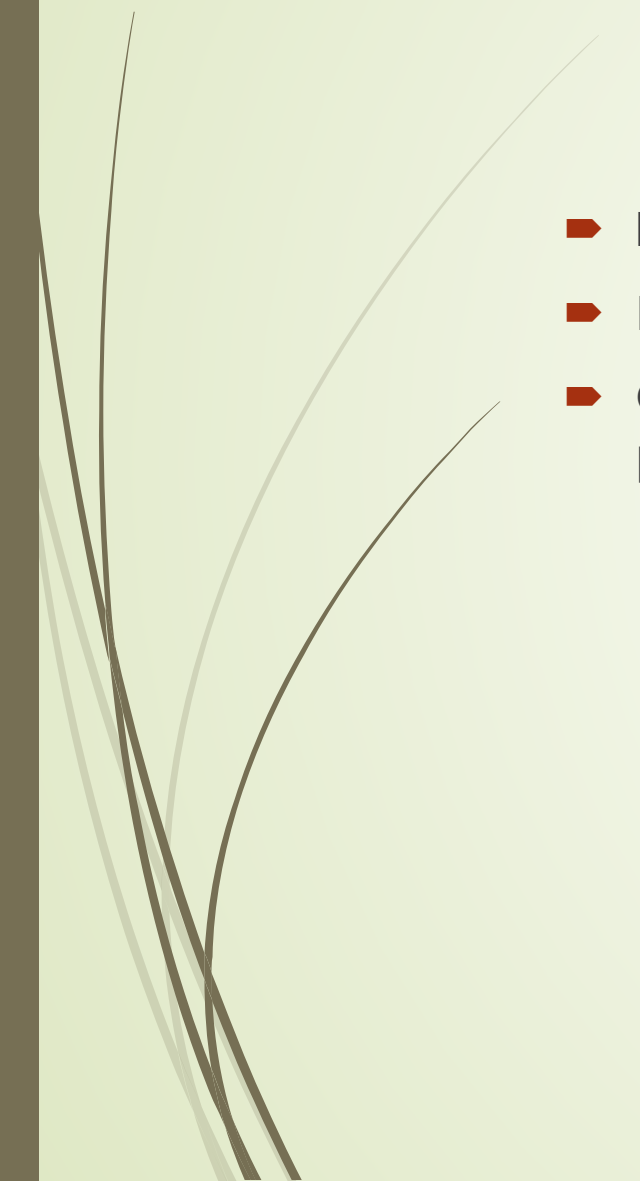


Challenges of the first cohort

- ▶ Scheduling
 - ▶ Time differences and time changes
 - ▶ Work week/holidays
 - ▶ Language
 - ▶ Bigger issue than expected
 - ▶ Should not be underestimated (Van de Water et al., 2008)
 - ▶ Evaluation
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What has been learned

- ▶ Identification of the areas of need prior to the second cohort,
 - ▶ Differences in the students' preparation for the program,
 - ▶ Critical need for clear and frequent communication between all involved parties.
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Ideas for future planning

- ▶ As always ISEP is a revitalizing force
- ▶ Improvements to the partnership program
 - ▶ Increase number of students
 - ▶ More comprehensive orientation for both students and faculty
 - ▶ Writing Workshop before starting courses
 - ▶ Travel and exchange of faculty and students



Ideas for future planning

- ▶ Collect data from first cohort of students and faculty
 - ▶ Perceptions
 - ▶ Experiences
 - ▶ Ideas
- ▶ Sustainability of partnership
 - ▶ Make improvements
 - ▶ Make participation attractive for faculty and students

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