

Promoting Undergraduates Research Competences and Techniques: A Case Study of a Tourism Destination Management Course

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ABSTRACT

The levels of complexity and the changing environment in which the Tourism industry operates, require critical and reflective Tourism practitioners. Consequently, and considering the need for students to develop analytical, problem-solving, and communicative skills, this article explores the research experiences of undergraduate students, focusing on the process of developing an independent, inquiry-based project. Based on a case study approach, this paper describes a research project developed by two classes of undergraduate students majoring in Tourism, providing an overview of the implementation of the project and of students' perceptions on this experience. Results suggest that adopting a research-based learning approach promotes students' engagement with research practices and increases intellectual capacity. In line with the course's final grading, students' feedback on the proposed research-based experience disclosed beneficial outcomes, allowing for the identification of a set of competences and techniques that have been most developed, as well as that need further improvement.

Keywords: undergraduate research, research-based learning, student experience, research competences and techniques