



Debrief Conversation Guide (Condensed Version)

for School Internships Abroad (SIAs)

Use as a self-reflection tool (written or recorded) or as a structured conversation guide between student and university educator. Suitable for final evaluations, Erasmus reports, and research assessments. Select 4–5 photos from the internship (See Photo Journal Prompts) before beginning.

Layer 1 · Question / Prompt	Layer 2 · Rationale	Layer 3 · Interviewer guidance
1 Introduction		
Identify who is speaking/writing. Note date and time.	<i>Establishes framing and purpose of the tool for learning and future SIA design.</i>	Welcome the participant. Introduce the tool. Clarify who holds the results and how they will be used.
2 Opening Narrative		
Recall the whole arc of your internship — from the first moment of anticipation to today. Which moments were most formative, positive or negative? Describe the situation, its importance, and its effect on you as a teacher.	<i>Generates narrative reflection to deepen learning; the why and how matter more than description of events.</i>	Wait before prompting — let silence work. — Repeat their last words exactly — “Can you give me a concrete example?” — “Why is this important to you?” — “Anything else worth mentioning?”
3 Peer Learning		
If placed with a peer: how did you collaborate? Was it a support or a challenge? Did you reflect together on your experiences?	<i>Elicits reflection on peer dynamics — mutual learning, co-construction, and the added complexity of shared placements.</i>	Probe further using the Layer 1 prompts. Raise if not yet addressed.
4 Photo Reflection		
Look at your selected photos. Why did you choose each one? What aspects do they capture?	<i>Photos act as consolidation anchors — they surface experiences that language alone may not reach.</i>	Ask per photo: Where? What were you doing? What were you feeling? Do they show something not yet mentioned?
5 Mentoring and Collaboration		
When and how did your mentor support you? Where might more support have helped? How did you work with other teachers or educational staff beyond classroom teaching?	<i>Current mentoring theory emphasises reciprocal and peer mentoring — mutual learning between mentor and mentee. Explores how this played out in the SIA context.</i>	Probe further using Layer 1 prompts.

6 Cultural Dimensions		
Where did you notice differences from your home context — lessons, students, colleagues, school culture? How did you respond? Was the Cultural Reflection Tree helpful?	<i>Immersive intercultural experiences are transformative for prospective teachers. Explores development of intercultural awareness and transferable cross-cultural competencies.</i>	Probe further using Layer 1 prompts.
7 Language as a Barrier and Opportunity		
What was it like to teach in a foreign language? How did you cope? What advice would you give to others in the same situation?	<i>Language barriers can impede integration and lead to underperformance relative to domestic peers. Explores specific impediments and coping strategies developed.</i>	Probe further using Layer 1 prompts.
8 Conclusions		
What's next? How might this internship influence your professional and personal development? What learning goals or next steps could you imagine for your next placement at home? "The 3 most important things that contributed to the success of my internship were..."	<i>Forward-oriented consolidation. Connects experience to continued professional development and next steps.</i>	Ask: "Is there anything important that hasn't been touched on yet?" Allow time for small talk — important things often surface here. Take notes.

Methodological note: Throughout the reflection, prioritise the why and how over descriptive narration. All sections apply to both interview and self-reflection formats. The tool may be audio-recorded or completed in writing.

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