Forming International Research Collaborations

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Outline

- Benefits of international collaborations
- Challenges of international collaborations
- Suggestions for getting it right
Benefits of International Collaboration

- Advance scientific knowledge
- Promote disciplinary cohesion
- Resource sharing
- Personal benefits
International Collaborations: A Tale of Two Cities

- City 1 (1990-1992)
  - lack explicit discussion about expectations
  - insensitivity to local context
  - power issues
City 2 (early 1990’s – present)

- Shared interests
- Common goals
- Equal power
Suggestions for Getting It Right

- Questions to ask yourself …
  - Why do international research?
  - Why work with this person?
  - Do our expectations match?
Finding a Potential Collaborator

- Read articles in your area and communicate with authors
- Participate in international workshops and conferences and make connections with people in your area
- Get your name out -- submit your work to international journals and conferences
- Become involved in international exchanges/activities (e.g., study abroad)
Specific Suggestions for Forging Successful Collaborations

- Face-to-face contact (esp. at first)
- Start small and build
- Respect local research context
- Knowledge exchange is two-way
- Be sensitive to personal style issues
- Students as “bridges”
Questions?