AUSTRIA

Markus Newberg
Edu. Abroad – Austria – Departmental Pre-approved
Summer 2016 - 17

I did an Internship at Raiffeisen bank in Vienna, Austria and this gorgeous country has an fascinating history, and allows students to practice their German. Vienna is a great city with amazing architecture, history, nightlife, and education for the students. While in Austria, I was able to visit Eisriesenwelt, the world’s largest ice cave located in Salzburg, Austria and its stunning beauty and history will leave a lasting impression on everyone.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Shannon Dube
ECES - AIFS
Spring 2016

The city of Prague is enriched with centuries of history. It is the perfect place to experience new culture, but also feel at home by simply eating at a Hard Rock Cafe or other chain. The people may seem reserved at first, but are amazing friends once they open up to you. It was easy to travel to neighboring countries and the airport was only a metro and bus ride away. It’s a perfect sized city to get used to if you are unused to city life.
Fiona van der Steur  
Charles Univ. - AIFS  
Spring 2016

I would have to say the history of the Czech Republic was the most enriching part of my study abroad experience. And no, not the history that I learned about in one of the courses I took while in Prague. What I mean is the history and beauty that was inevitably encountered just by getting lost in the streets of the most culturally stimulating city you could choose to study abroad in.

Dana Tomkalski  
Prague Consulting Project - Faculty-Led  
Short-term Spring 2017

My study abroad program allowed me to travel the Czech Republic and work directly with a foreign company to gain valuable business experience. During meetings with foreign companies in my field of study, I was able to ask questions to their lead executives. While in Prague, I also saw many tours of the city where I was able to absorb culture and cuisine. My favorite experience studying abroad was traveling to Cesky Krumlov to present our final project to Budvar’s top executives. It was exciting to hear the company’s feedback on the research I did with my classmates/new lifelong friends.

DENMARK

Ashley Prinzhorn  
Prague Consulting Project – Faculty-Led  
Short-term Spring 2017

While studying in Denmark, I was part of the Prague consulting group from UNCW that only lasted one week, but I spent an additional week traveling to Vienna, Barcelona, & Copenhagen. After high school, I spent 12 months backpacking across Latin America. Both of these experiences abroad taught me how to navigate new areas alone, how to communicate with people from different backgrounds, and how to handle difficult situations without becoming overwhelmed, everyday can be an adventure.
France

Sarah Bendaoua
International Student from France
KEDGE
Summer 2015

You can't regret studying at KEDGE; the school is not that big, so it's easy to find yourself in the building you need. The school offers multiple opportunities where you can create your own company (doesn't have to be business related: they are open to any type of ideas you present them). Kedge Business School is one of the top 5 Business Schools in France, and all their programs from Bachelor to Master are well-known. Kedge Business School in Marseille is the place to go.

Julia Beattie
Summer on the Mediterranean – Faculty-Led
Summer 2016

I truly believe that all students should study abroad in France or another foreign country. I think that you learn the most when you are taken outside of your comfort zone. My favorite experience was on the last day of the trip. My friends and I hiked "les calanques," which are cliffs that meet the Mediterranean. You get to meet so many great people, many of whom are from foreign countries, and you get to create relationships and make lifelong memories.

Margarita Gordillo
Paris: The City & Art – Faculty-Led
Summer 2016

I think students should study in France because it's amazing to see where a lot of artists were inspired; their art says a lot of what they were feeling and what was going on during that time. The food was delicious and you will never forget it. Even if you're not interested in art, you will love it. My favorite experience in France was having our own apartment. I really got to live like a Parisian and experience grocery shopping at farmers markets, making my own food, riding the metro and going to class.
Lemuel Heida  
Art and Art History in Paris – Faculty-Led  
Summer 2016  

One of my favorite experiences in Paris was participating in a group art project at the top of Sacre Coure (the Sacred Heart Basilica). The Parisians were so welcoming and accepting of art that one of the security guards roped off the area for us while we created a drawing of the cityscape while hundreds of visitors looked on! Meeting new people from around the world who with different lifestyles than mine was a great experience.

Josephine Hill  
KEDGE  
Spring 2016  

Studying abroad for a semester gives you the opportunity to really immerse yourself into a new culture. Kedge had a club that organized trips and events for the international students which was a fun way to get to know everyone. What was really a great experience was getting to live with a bunch of international students and traveling with them. By the end of the semester, I had made plans to visit a couple of them in their home country before I went back to the states.

Michelle Ho  
Summer on the Mediterranean – Faculty-Led  
Summer 2016  

It was fun to travel and learn in Marseille, France, and it was an amazing opportunity to immerse myself in its culture, try new foods, meet new friends, and learn French all in one month! The Interact Club took us on electric bikes to explore Marseille and it was one of the best experiences of my life! The weather was perfect and we even biked to the Calanques to take a swim in the crystal clear waters.
Makenna Jahr
Summer on the Mediterranean – Faculty-Led
Summer 2016 - 17

Marseille, France is the perfect mix of diverse cultures, positioned on the Mediterranean, and the second largest city in France. Marseille is conveniently located for other travel and you can quickly join the hustle and bustle tourist life in big cities like Paris. My favorite place in Marseille was the Calanques, a national park where you can hike and swim in the Mediterranean. I am not much of a hiker or nature person, but it has the most breath taking views I have ever experienced.

Jessica Morris
KEDGE – Direct Partner
Spring 2017

While living in Marseille, France, I joined the business school's volleyball team and we made it to the Final Championship tournament. After a five-hour drive to Toulouse, France and learning countless chants in French, we won the final match. We ended on the floor, screaming, crying, and chanting for the victorious team of the Brankys! It was incredible to form bonds with people from different cultures and experience how exciting life can be on the outside of my comfort zone.

Danielle Nelson
Paris The NC Consortium Program – Direct Partner
Spring 2017

In France my favorite experiences were when I would just order an espresso and people watch at a cafe. Or sit in the Garden of Luxembourg reading a book. Being 30 minutes away from some of the most famous monuments in the world like the Eiffel Tower wasn't so bad either!
Natalie Norman
Summer on the Mediterranean – Faculty-Led
Summer 2016 - 17

The first weekend of my Marseille, France summer program on the Mediterranean, I spent traveling to the beautiful coastal village of Cassis. A group of us decided to take a boat ride to view the stunning Calanques, and the steep-walled inlets along the Mediterranean were stunning. Looking back, I am so appreciative of that day and of the friendships formed as we all bonded over the beauty of our new host country!

Stephanie Newman
Paris The NC Consortium Program – Direct Partner
Spring 2017

I made a slew of amazing memories throughout my semester in Paris, France with new lifelong friends however, visiting the Muse’e Rodin museum is my favorite. Rowing a boat in the Grand Canal at Versailles to the sounds of Disney music with friends was beyond memorable. Eating Pierre Herme’ macarons in the Parc du Bagatelle surrounded by roses is magical, and the view from the towers of Notre Dame is breathtaking. I honestly never wanted to leave Paris, but all I can say is, Go!

Ann (Katie) Oneal
Univ. Grenoble Alpes
Fall 2016

Studying abroad in France, eating the French way and hiking in the alps and glacier lakes, truly changed my life. Although I was out of my comfort zone, I quickly developed a friend group from all around the world, many of my best friends came from the U.K., Spain, Italy, Canada, France, and Lebanon. I genuinely see the world differently, and it has only encouraged me to work harder for the rest of my time at UNCW, so I can continue my education abroad.
Rebecca Priester  
Summer on the Mediterranean – Faculty-Led  
Fall 2016

Kedge Business School in Marseille France is in the middle of Calanques National Park and has lots of hiking trails near the campus. Knowing zero French and to being able to communicate with local people was fulfilling and the immersion in a new culture, opened my eyes to the daily life in France verses those in America. For the rest of my life I will crave their bakeries with fresh croissants, baguettes, and pastries and the ease of traveling on weekends.

Sara Reece  
KEDGE  
Academic Year 2015-16

In October, a friend and I took a train up north and spent a week in Alsace, France’s renowned wine region. We rented bikes and rode from village to village along little pathways winding through the vineyards, stopping here and there to eat grapes off the vines. For miles and miles all we could see were rolling hills covered in grape vines with tiny villages speckled throughout, a sight too beautiful to describe.

Alexandra Sarmiento  
Summer on the Mediterranean – Faculty-Led  
Summer 2017

Marseille, France has all the amenities afforded to an up-and-coming metropolitan place, but still has that rustic charm one thinks of when picturing the Mediterranean. The view of Old Port of Marseille atop a Ferris wheel is especially magical. Because of my program, I was able to experience Europe as a local in Marseille and as a tourist in places other than my host city. It was also amazing to experience different cultures through their cuisine. I plan on studying abroad again at the earliest opportunity.
Caroline Smith  
Summer on the Mediterranean – Faculty-Led  
Summer 2017  

From lively city centers, to traditional old fishing ports, Marseille is a very dynamic city. Due to the convenient location of Marseille, I traveled to three other countries on the weekends during my time in France. Weekend trips pushed me out of my comfort zone due to the challenges of language barriers and managing international travel. I feel that this is what truly made me grow from my experience. A class field trip to Cassis, a quaint Mediterranean fishing port that had everything from hiking to views from the Calanques, was by far one of my favorite experiences while abroad in France.

Sophia Stafford  
Summer on the Mediterranean – Faculty-Led  
Summer 2016 - 17  

France is a great location to study abroad because of its blend of history and gorgeous scenery that includes everything from city, to beach, to the mountains. One of my favorite experiences in France was a daytrip on a sailboat. I'll never forget jumping into the crystal water and the views of the rocky cliffs. My program encouraged us to do many weekend trips like the sailboat trip; it was the perfect mix of learning in the classroom and learning how to travel independently.

Julia Sylvester  
KEDGE  
Academic Year 2015-16  

The Calanques are one of the most breathtaking and secretive spots to visit in Marseille, France. The Calanques are steep and rigid cliffs that fall right into the Mediterranean Sea creating a perfect place to hike and relax by the crystal blue water any time of the week. I lived right at the basin of the Calanques and could walk or run the trails leading to the water in my free time, which was one of the most liberating and exciting experiences of my adventures abroad!
Emily Thurston  
Univ. Grenoble Alpes - ISEP  
Spring 2017  

I fell in love with Grenoble, France during a class discussion in my political participation course. Everyone was of a different nationality and we each took turns explaining our views on the discussion topic and analyzed the differences in our origins and cultures and how it influenced them. At that moment, I glanced out the window and saw a breathtaking view of the French Alps, leading to my realization of just how incredibly lucky I was to be there.

Sarah White  
KEDGE  
Spring 2016  

Getting to live with over 100 international students in an old and run-down dorm was one of my favorite parts of being abroad. Being in a kitchen with over forty people speaking at least seven different languages at the same time was mind-blowing. Before coming to Marseille, I had hoped to befriend some French students but I never would have imagined that I would come out with this many friends from places all over the world.

Germany  

Abby Cook  
Hochschule Bremen – Faculty-Led  
Summer 2016  

When most people think of Germany, they might think of big cities like Munich or Berlin, but Bremen leaves students with a comfortable and homey feel. My favorite experience in Bremen was a little dock my friends and I would hang out on sometimes after class and we would bring snacks, lay out, and get to know each other and even swim. It was the closest thing I felt to being in Wilmington, my home away from home.
Alexander Fregenal
Business in Bremen – Faculty-Led
Summer 2016

My favorite place I visited in Germany was Berlin because there was so much to do there from seeing all the historical sights of World War II and the Cold War to checking out the latest in German automotive engineering. Berlin is such a huge melting pot of not just German culture, but also Italian, Eastern European, Turkish, and Middle Eastern as well. Berlin's blend of the past and present make it the perfect destination for any college student.

Nicole Griffes
Hochschule Bremen – Faculty-Led
Summer 2017

Summer study abroad in Germany was the best decision I have ever made! Germany is rich with history and amazing food. It is also one of the cheapest countries in Europe! Germany's proximity to other countries made traveling easy. It was enriching to learn about the German culture as well as cultures from fellow international students also studying business. During my experience, I went on a trip to the Berlin Wall. It was surreal to touch something that I had only previously seen pictures of.

Rianna Thomas
Hochschule Bremen – Faculty-Led
Summer 2016

Students should study abroad in Germany because the cultural differences are a learning experience and teach you to be adaptable. Germany is such a big country that has so much to explore that you will never be bored. The country is rooted in history and also rich with culture.
Elizabeth Warren
Bonn and Bremen, Germany – Faculty-Led Summer 2016 - 17

With an open mind, studying abroad can help anyone grow by getting you out of your comfort zone and forcing you to take chances on navigating and living in a new place. I especially appreciated the culture in my host country, Germany. It was very different from the US and I loved seeing how other people of the world lived their lives.

Greece

Stefany Ortiz
American College of Greece – Faculty-Led Summer 2016

My favorite place in Greece was the island of Mykonos, which had crystal clear waters and beautiful sunset views. I absolutely loved this island because it was so full of life, with upbeat music being played all around you and the people being so friend and kind. I thought it was almost too good to be true. With its white houses and blue doors, it looked like it was straight out of a film.

Ireland

Taryn April
UNCW @ Maynooth: A Fall Program for First Year Spring Admitted Students Fall 2015

One afternoon, my group of FYSA students that I studied with while in Ireland and I were brought to the coastal town of Bray where we hiked to the top of Bray Head; the views were breathtaking with hang gliders soaring just above our heads. We stopped at a small cafe to get some delicious pastries before catching the train home.
Kestyn Baughan
UNCW @ Maynooth: A Fall Program for First Year Spring Admitted Students
Summer 2015

After crossing the Carrick-a-Rede Bridge in Northern Ireland, I looked out past the sea and I had a glimpse of Scotland. The immensity of the cliffs and the sea that beat against them was absolutely beautiful and astonishing. Being on that cliff with my new best friends, taking pictures, and laughing was a memory I will never forget, and it was one of the many that made me fall in love with Ireland.

Erin Cahill
Maynooth Univ.
Fall 2016

I had such an incredible experience traveling around Ireland, seeing such beautiful sights as the Cliffs of Moher, the Ring of Kerry, and Blarney Castle. Two of my favorite experiences were when I kayaked in Dublin with the International society from my school and when I enjoyed a Medieval feast at Bunratty Castle. Ireland has both amazing landscapes and amazing people and is the perfect place to study abroad.

Kimberly Carscaddon
Maynooth Univ.
Spring 2017

My favorite memory while studying at Maynooth, in Ireland, and after mastering public transportation, a friend and I were able to arrange a trip to Galway, Ireland to explore Connemara National Park. My friend and I hiked the Diamond Hill trail to the very top of the mountain where we could see for miles the endless green landscape peppered with bright gold Gorse (native wildflower) and a beautiful blue-sky backdrop, it was absolutely breathtaking! There was never a dull day in Ireland for me.
Caroline Dequire  
UNCW @ Maynooth: A Fall Program for First Year Spring Admitted Students 
Fall 2016  

Being able to live in a society different than my own was incredibly eye-opening. There were so many resources available to the students I believe that anybody who goes to Maynooth will be welcomed with open arms. The locals were also very kind and willing to give you directions or help with anything you may have needed. Another perk of Maynooth is that it is a short train away from Dublin. This allowed us to experience the Irish city life as well as the student life.

Colleen Fitzpatrick  
UNCW @ Maynooth: A Fall Program for First Year Spring Admitted Students 
Fall 2016  

Other students should study in Ireland because of the opportunities it provides. The location is ideal for traveling around Europe and Ireland itself has so much culture and history students can learn about. Maynooth University provided an amazing education with one-on-one sessions outside of the lectures, which were very helpful. I was able to travel to four countries, which is what I found most enriching. I learned so much about culture and history within the different countries. Meeting people in Ireland was also so enriching; I was able to create bonds with people across the ocean.

Katherine O’Hara  
Natl. Univ. of Ireland, Maynooth - AIFS 
Summer 2016 - 17  

The beauty of the Republic of Ireland is in the diversity of its landscape, art museums, and literary culture. I was able to study my craft in Ireland, and the many literary influences it is known, and I was very excited to study Joyce and Yeatsen poetics in the places that inspired their works. I enjoyed going from the fjords of Connemara to the city of Dublin and Galway in only a matter of days, and making new friends along the way.
Haley Rouse
Dublin – Summer Irish Studies - CIEE
Summer 2016 - 17

Studying in Ireland is a once in a lifetime opportunity, with breathtaking sights like the Cliffs of Moher and Giant's Causeway, and a culture that pulls you in and makes you feel welcome no matter where you go. If you love welcoming cultures, great food, amazing music, breathtaking scenery, and hundreds of unique opportunities, Ireland is the place for you.

Emily Thackston
UNCW @ Maynooth: A Fall Program for First Year Spring Admitted Students
Fall 2016

My favorite place that I visited in Ireland would have to be the cliffs of Moher. The pictures do not do this location justice; it is absolutely breathtaking. A must if traveling to Ireland. It was a place like none other that I have seen before - absolutely marvelling.

Rachel Williams
UNCW @ Maynooth: A Fall Program for First Year Spring Admitted Students
Fall 2014

First Year Spring Admit students should study abroad in Maynooth to take a big leap into college. This program not only allows you to study abroad, but it acts as a stepping stone from high school to college. You can take classes that go towards your major, while being able to travel and explore on the weekends and during fall break. You will make friends with the other UNCW FSYA students that will be coming back to UNCW with you in the Spring, making the transition easier because you will have friends by your side. It is a rare opportunity for freshman to study abroad, but it is definitely worth it!
My most memorable experience while in Ireland definitely had to be seeing the Cliffs of Moher. My friends and I got lucky and went on a day when it was sunny so you could see the Aran Islands in the distance. The detail and beauty of these cliffs is absolutely breathtaking. I sat on a grassy ledge and was able to take in my surroundings for a few minutes, but I could have sat there for hours on end and never once got tired of the view.

ITALY

Italy is absolutely breath taking! I studied in both Rome and Florence and it was incredible to see the differences in daily routines that people experience on the other side of the world. There was history and natural beauty at every corner, I walked by at least 10 different historical sites just on my way to class. I loved learning all about the Italian cities I studied, and it has made me so excited to share my experiences abroad.

Florence is now my favorite place in the world. Overall, Italy is amazing because of its food, views, culture and people. Through my experiences in Florence I was able to grow my independence and knowledge about the Italian culture. Studying abroad helped me to become a more independent person and make memories with friends that will last a lifetime… all while eating the best gelato, pasta and pizza in the world.
Nicole Bondos  
The American University of Rome - ISA  
Spring 2017

Every region of Italy is diverse in its own way; giving students abilities to experience various dialects, food, transit, scenery and music. Italy will truly broaden your horizons. Rome has amazing historical monuments, and it is also easy to travel out of. My favorite trip in Italy was to Palermo, Sicily that I went on with roommates, who have become my best friends. The short trip from Rome was a nightmare because everyone experienced some sort of obstacle, but, at the same time, we had the most fun and welcoming experience from the Sicilian people.

Angela Ciarletta  
The American University of Rome - ISA  
Spring 2016

It was amazing living in a residential area of Rome where I could walk to the city center from school. Seeing the Colosseum, Roman Forum, Pantheon, Vatican, and Trevi Fountain was incredible, but I also loved being able to immerse myself in such a rich culture and practice my Italian (even though I had never studied it before). I would not have had such vast experiences if I had only vacationed in Rome for a week or two. Living in another place and adapting to its local culture was truly life changing.

Samantha Cinelli  
Richmond in Rome - AIFS  
Fall 2016

I have experienced Italy, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and for a smaller amount of time, Israel and Qatar. I would recommend any of these places for various reasons. In Italy, there is something for everyone to appreciate: the arts, sports, religions, history, etc
Marissa Jodway  
Richmond in Florence - AIFS  
Spring 2016

From having meals with locals, to climbing the historic Duomo, to watching the sun go down over the city at Piazzale Michelangelo, each moment is one that I will cherish forever. I could not have asked for a better study abroad experience and I hope that any student looking to study abroad will consider Florence as their home away from home.

Will Jordan  
Florence University of the Arts - ISA  
Fall 2016

The opportunity I had to live in Florence is one that I will cherish forever. Italy has one of the most influential cultures across the world and now I understand why. Italy has its own unique way of life and after spending a semester there, you won't want to leave. Other students should study abroad in Italy because of the beauty and culture throughout the entire country. Italy has beautiful beaches, amazing cities, and even the Alpine mountains. I was at a great university and had an apartment located in one of the most popular piazzas (city center) in Florence. Above all, my program set me up with roommates that are now lifelong friends.

Erin Powley  
Richmond Univ. in Florence - ISA  
Fall 2016

Italy has much more to offer to students who are willing to embrace not just the perfection but also the imperfection of a country that is rooted in tradition. My professors were proud of where they lived and enthusiastic to show us the reasoning behind their lifestyle. I was given the privilege of learning new things in a setting that emphasized real-life importance - school was no longer hypothetical information from a textbook. We got take 'field-trips' to famous renaissance vineyards, family-owned balsamic vinegar farms, world-renowned cathedrals, and even the Ferrari museum. Italy will not disappoint any student looking for a home away from home on the other side of the Atlantic.
Shirazeh Rogers
Florence University of the Arts - ISA
Spring 2017

While in Florence, I learned to live on a budget, use my time wisely, and be comfortable with new cultures and people. A friend and I hiked to Fiesole, a small city located about four miles above Florence, enjoying all the views of Florence on the way. My experiences in Italy opened my eyes to different parts of the world and I developed a bigger world perspective.

Gabrielle Smith
Florence University of the Arts - ISA
Spring 2017

Florence, Italy, taught me so much about Art from visiting the Uffizi or just walking their historical streets. In Rome, I saw the Colosseum, the Forum, and the Vatican, while in Parma and Modena, we studied the process behind Parmesan Cheese and Balsamic Vinegar production, in Tuscany, I learned about wine and grape production, and on the coast, I learned about growing lemons and their tourism market. Italy is not a huge country, but has great deal to appreciate.

THE NETHERLANDS

James Olson
Radboud Univ. Nijmegen - ISEP
Spring 2017

The Netherlands is an amazing place to study abroad because it is such a beautiful country. There are fields of tulips, countryside’s of green, bicycling everywhere, and it is home to the amazing city of Amsterdam. I loved immersing myself in the Dutch culture and food, especially the decadent desserts. My favorite place in the Netherlands was the Top floor of my host Universities tallest building. Twenty floors up, you can see miles around the city enjoying the quaint Dutch houses to the large churches.
I think students should study abroad in Spain for several reasons, but primarily if they want to study the language, culture, and witness the beauty of Spain. Mallorca’s landscape was absolutely breathtaking and the people were very friendly. My host mother brought my roommates and I close together and made sure we always had everything we needed.

Olivia Baer  
Univ. Internacional Menendez Pelayo – ISA  
Summer 2018

Spain is exciting because it embraces its youth while also keeping cultural traditions alive. I especially enjoyed Barcelona’s location because it was temperate and easy to access transportation to other places in Europe. By living with a host family I was able to advance my Spanish language skills and learn about day-to-day life as a Spaniard, completely immersing myself in the culture. The highlight of my study abroad experience was visiting the “Bunkers” where you can view a breathtaking, 365 degree view of Barcelona.

Anna Bateman  
Florida State Univ. Valencia Study Center – ISA  
Spring 2017

I fell in love with Valencia, Spain because of the beautiful green parks, the huge beach, and incredible mountains close to the city. Studying abroad in a non-touristy city has made me become more confident and independent, especially in fostering friendships with strangers. Traveling was really a learning experience. My favorite experience in Valencia was attending Las Fallas; one of Spain’s largest festivals that celebrates spring. Las Fallas was the most exciting and unforgettable 2 weeks of my life.
Nina Caruso  
Semester in Santander – UNC Charlotte  
Spring 2017  

My favorite place in Spain, is definitely Playa Matalenas, a quaint beach hidden between the faces of two cliffs on the beautiful Bay of Biscay. On the left cliff sits a lighthouse with a cafe that serves the most delicious rabas (calamari) I have ever eaten in my life. From their explosive music scene to their fashion-forward icons, the Spanish just do things differently, in a way too intriguing to miss out.

Chase Catterton  
Sevilla – International Studies, Business & Spanish Language - ISA  
Fall 2016  

Across from our school there was a small cafe that you'd only notice if you were desperate for a caffeine fix. A friend and I found ourselves frequenting the place so often that the people who worked there greeted us by name and didn't even have to ask for our order. It was clearly a place for locals, cramped for space and thoroughly crowded during breakfast hours, but the conversations we had there and the people we formed relationships with taught me more than any of my studies.

Amanda Cook  
Univ. of Valencia  
Spring 2016  

People from Spain have a very different outlook on life than us Americans do. They truly enjoy and cherish life and its joys, both small and large. They work to live, not live to work. The most enriching thing I experienced was speaking to people from my host country in their own language, and meeting and learning from other study abroad students from different countries.
Catherine DeVito
Univ. Pablo de Olavide - ISA
Spring 2016

The experiences I had and the places I visited were greatly enhanced by the fact that it became not just a city that I lived in, but it became home, and my host family became not just my host family, but my second family. Feeling so at peace while abroad made me able to flourish that much more. My favorite thing about my study abroad in Seville, Spain isn't a specific place or a specific experience, it is culmination of all of the above.

Tara Ellington
Semester in Santander – UNC Charlotte
Spring 2017

One of my favorite days while in a small town in Santander, Spain, was the day I spent in town with my host family. We went on a long walk to have tapas and wine with their friends, walked along the ocean, and then went home to have a great meal for lunch. Having the ability to live the average life of a Spaniard, with people who enjoyed my company and worked to understand my broken Spanish was a very rewarding experience. Anyone would be fortunate to study in Spain.

Dylan Elliot
Semester in Santander – UNC Charlotte
Spring 2017

The greatest excursion I took in Spain was to the city of Salamanca, it is the Spanish equivalent to Oxford: their oldest and most prestigious university. During the day, we wandered along narrow streets looking at the great 800-year-old cathedrals and palaces where students still take classes; at night, we ate great food and danced in the wildest nightclubs Spain had to offer. After coming back home, I feel more certain about what kind of a person I am and who I want to be in this world.
Madison Faulconer  
Univ. Pablo de Olavide - ISA  
Spring 2016

I traveled to 7 countries and many different cities during my time abroad, but Seville, Spain remains my favorite place. Something about Seville that really drew me in was the fact that it was not as heavily populated with tourists as compared to Madrid or Barcelona. Seville is so quaint and beautiful, truly a gem.

Mary Guffey  
Valencia, Spain Summer I – Faculty-Led  
Summer 2016

My favorite part of my time in Spain was the relationships I formed. I went on this excursion not knowing a single other person and came back with some life long best friends. Through traveling on the weekend to places like Barcelona, Majorca, and exploring waterfalls in Valencia, I made memories that will always hold a dear place in my heart.

Hannah Henry  
Univ. de Almeria - ISEP  
Fall 2016

Spain, where people go seeking the sun, the beach, flamenco dancing, wine, tapas, cured ham, and siestas. My favorite experience in Spain was a trip to Gibraltar, a small UK territory in the middle of Andalusia, Spain. We hiked an hour up the hill, where domesticated monkeys run wild, trying to steal food and shiny objects. At the top, we looked out at oceans on both sides of us, and was in awe at the view of both Europe and Africa together, an experience I will never forget.
Kelly Heyer  
Semester in Santander – UNC Charlotte  
Spring 2017

Santander, Spain has a rich prideful history and culture and not only is it a very clean and litter free country, but the people are kind and willing to share of themselves. Very few people in Santander speak English fluently, so becoming immersed in the language is unavoidable. Staying with a host family made the experience enjoyable for me because I was able to eat authentic Spanish meals while speaking Spanish all day.

Marina Jones  
Alicante – Intensive Spanish Language - CIEE  
Summer 2016

During the time I stayed in Alicante, my favorite part was being able to hike up the castle anytime I wanted to. It was about a 15 minute walk from my home-stay and it had an incredible view overlooking the ocean and the city. I miss being able to have that.

Erica Paige Keen  
Semester in Santander – UNC Charlotte  
Fall 2015

Spain was so much more than I could have ever imagined. I knew I would fall more in love with the language, but I wasn't prepared to fall in love with the people, the culture and the country itself. The people are so welcoming and endearing and the families we all lived with were incredible. In Santander where I studied, we would sit on the beach looking out at the Cantabrian Sea while admiring the incredible mountains. There is nothing like being in your host city and seeing such beauty everywhere you look.
Christine Kessel
Semester in Santander – UNC-Charlotte
Fall 2016

Spain is uniquely different from other Spanish speaking countries because it is so rich in culture and tradition. I learned so much about the different groups who conquered Spain at different points in time and left their mark. Staying with a host family was the best part because they cooked traditional Spanish food, and I learned about their traditions as well as learning common Spanish phrases. I built friendships and know that I have a Spanish family that I can visit.

Joshua Kleinstuber
Semester in Santander – UNC Charlotte
Spring 2016

After my last night of celebrating in the city of Santander, I and a few students from the United States, Italy, and Spain spent the early hours of the morning sitting on the beach, where we unanimously decided that it was the best sunrise that any of us had ever seen. My trip of a lifetime included over 100 days of travel, 42 bus rides, 18 plane tickets, 15 countries, and countless blisters, but that final beautiful sunrise is the one memento that will undoubtedly stick with me forever.

Frances Livingston
Summer Program in Ubeda, Spain – Faculty-Led
Summer 2015

You should study abroad in Ubeda, Spain because you will be living in one of the oldest cities in Western Europe, allowing you to cultivate new experiences in a different culture. The people you will live with will push you to try new things, even if you say "no gracias" but I promise those foods, dances, laughs, and walks will never leave your memory.
Patricia Ripoli Martinez  
International Student from Spain  
Univ. de Valencia  
Academic Year 2016-17

Studying abroad will open your eyes to another world you didn’t know about. Living that experience will become a turning point in your life as you will get to know another culture, meet new people and discover amazing places.

Jasmine Moranville  
Univ. of Valencia – Direct Partner  
Spring 2017

Valencia, Spain has so much culture, personality, beauty, great food, and the friendliest people I have met. A few of my favorite experiences while in Spain, was visiting Sevilla and Granada and organizing a trip to Alhambra in Granada. The trip to Granada gave us the freedom to do what we wanted and the view of Alhambra in Granada was breathtaking! Traveling around Europe and meeting people from all over the world, helped me learn about different cultures and make friendships I would have never made.

Kaila Pearson  
Semester in Santander – UNC Charlotte  
Spring 2016

Although, I spent most of time in Santander, I traveled to other parts of Spain, like Barcelona, Sevilla, Granada, and Madrid. My favorite city however is Sevilla, because of their colorful architecture that reflects Arabic culture. Sevilla is smaller than Barcelona or Madrid, but still has several things to see and visit like the Plaza de Espana and Alcazar Palace which were some of the most beautiful historical sights I have ever seen.
Kristen Schimmoller
Semester in Santander – UNC Charlotte
Spring 2016

I’m partial to my second home in Santander, Spain. It's a gorgeous town that sits on the water. You can take a run to El Faro (lighthouse), watch some surfing, participate in a local soccer game, get some delicious chocolate from Valor, or lay out on the beach at El Sardinero. Any way you pick, you can’t go wrong!

Erin Shoemaker
Summer Program in Ubeda, Spain – Faculty-Led
Summer 2016

I highly recommend studying abroad in Úbeda, Spain. My absolute favorite part of my study abroad experience was living with a host family. I had to speak and understand Spanish from when I woke up until when I went to bed. The progress of my fluency in Spanish from week one to week six was overwhelming! I had the best time experiencing firsthand what the Spanish way of life really looked like. They were so welcoming and helpful and really made my time the most memorable it could be. I definitely became like one of their own and they will forever be my second family!

Lydia Sypawka
Valencia, Spain Summer I – Faculty-Led
Summer 2016

I believe immersing yourself in an unfamiliar culture is something everyone should experience. Spain was the perfect place to explore because of it is full of different cultures and traditions that have been around for many years. My favorite part of my experience was being able to not just visit but be a part of the Spaniards' everyday life.
Emily Ripsoa
Univ. Internacional Menendez Pelayo – ISA
Spring 2017

Study abroad in Sevilla, Spain was one of the most amazing cultural and eye-opening experiences in my life. Living in Sevilla, during Semana Santa (Holy Week) was by far my favorite experience while studying abroad. I was able to attend a Catholic mass in the third largest cathedral in the world and not only watch, but actually participate in this beautiful and historic tradition of the Spanish people.

Garrett Wade
Univ. de Salamanca - ISA
Spring 2017

Salamanca, nestled between beautiful Cantabria and bustling Madrid, is the best town for a university student in Spain. The town is considered to be the home of the purest Spanish, and that; coupled with the oldest university in Spain, offers students the best environment to master their Spanish. Trekking close to three hundred miles during my spring break along the Camino de Santiago was the most impactful part of my tenure in Spain. Meeting people from all over the world while pushing yourself physically and mentally is what studying abroad is all about.

Julianna Umbehr
Santander – Spanish Language & Culture - ISA
Summer 2017

My favorite experience in my host country was my class at the UIMP. I was in an advanced Spanish class with 9 other students from around the globe. I made many new friends and got extremely comfortable speaking and joking with our professor and the other students. We did many enriching classroom activities, and I felt like a sponge absorbing all of the information in a relaxed, laid back manner. I also really enjoyed the Diet and Mediterranean Culture class, and the Spanish Cinema class.
SWEDEN

Catherine Dobbs
Jonkoping Univ.
Spring 2017

Studying abroad was outside of my comfort zone since I was the only student from UNCW, the Swedish culture was warm and welcoming. A Swedish cultural tradition is to memorialize your experience through overalls the university provides. My global viewpoint was expanded during a Swedish Language and Culture course at Jonkping. I was able to compare the U.S. and other countries to the easygoing Swedish ways of taking “fika”, an afternoon break for coffee and pastries. My program also helped me to travel with other international students where I saw and learned more history.

Bobby Inscoe
Univ. of Gothenburg – Direct Partner
Spring 2017

Sweden is home to beautiful landscapes and wonderful people. In particular, Gothenburg is a lovely city that suits those who want to explore a bustling metropolis abroad while still living cozily. Sweden is an easy connection country to the rest of Europe. In fact, a few friends and I took a 27-hour bus ride, past the Arctic Circle to Kiruna, where we went dogsledding, rode on snowmobiles, explored the wintry landscape and camped at Abisko National Park where the Northern Light views were breathtaking.

Lara Noren
Univ. of Gothenburg – Direct Partner
Spring 2016

Students should study abroad in Sweden because of its rich culture. The nature is stunning, the people are interesting, and the politics are very different than most of the world. During my stay in Gothenburg, a few friends and I decided to travel to Scandinavian Lapland, the northernmost part of Sweden and
Norway in the Arctic Circle. I have never been to a more beautiful place, full of mountains, reindeer, dog-sledding, saunas, a LOT of snow, and the Northern Lights (the most breathtaking natural phenomenon in the world)!

**SWITZERLAND**

Megan Villano
Franklin Univ. Switzerland
Fall 2013

You should study abroad because it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take classes in a foreign country and visit famous landmarks while meeting some of your future best friends and learning more about yourself. People never look back and regret the shots they took, but they will regret the shots they did not take.

**UK-ENGLAND**

Meredith Bell
Solution Focused Practice in the UK – Faculty-Led
Summer 2017

Studying abroad in England expanded my perspective of social constructs, culture, and policy. Not only did I get an immersive cultural experience, I also received valuable insights on solution-focused practice for my future career. I understand the practice much deeper than I did before I went. The new self-confidence I discovered has changed my goals as a future social worker, student, and individual; I highly recommend this program to my fellow students.
Christine Conger  
Univ. of Hertfordshire – Direct Partner  
Spring 2016

My favorite experience studying in England was the first time I went into London with fellow international students. We experienced traditional "tea time" and walked around London in awe of the city. We were all excited to be studying in England and we laughed so much while getting to know each other.

Jacqueline Cook  
Univ. of Hertfordshire – Direct Partner  
Spring 2017

Studying abroad in London, England allowed me to learn about parts of the English and European culture I never would have known. I loved the diversity London offered as well as the never-ending list of historical sights to see. I think the most enriching part about my experience was feeling humbled by how big the world is and being able to witness different ways of living across the globe.

Anthea DeVeyra  
Univ. of Hertfordshire – Direct Partner  
Spring 2017

In England you will see sights of medieval castles intermixed with contemporary architecture that encourage academic curiosity and wonder! The variety of cultures represented in my study abroad program gave me a great deal of experience in reflecting on multiple perspectives, learning critical life experiences, responsibility, and independence. While I loved how easy it was to travel out of England to other countries, my most memorable experience was my first visit to London. Staring at the Big Ben skyline with other international students was a surreal experience.
Laney Dobbs  
Univ. of Hertfordshire  
Spring 2017

While in Hertfordshire England, I traveled frequently to London, but Camden Town was my favorite, because Camden Market had the best food and shops. England is diverse and offers lots of historical richness and I learned how to communicate with people who may speak the same language, but with very different perceptions. Being in a territory besides your own is something I feel every person should experience in his or her lifetime!

Britton Edwards  
Univ. of Hertfordshire – Faculty-Led  
Short Term – Spring 2016

One of the prime benefits of studying abroad in the United Kingdom is the rich diversity that courses through the nation, primarily in the bustling city of London. Both locals and tourists add to that diversity, making the city a mixture of every group of people that comes to experience the culture. Every street corner echoes with accents and languages from all across the world. During my visit, I was able to speak to people from nations I’d never visited and see the traditions of societies other than the ones I’d grown up with.

Sarah Glenn  
Univ. of Roehampton  
Fall 2015

My favorite thing to do in London was to ride on the top front seat of the double-decker bus, or just get a cup of tea and walk around the different markets. Also, during the holidays there are many Christmas markets around the city and the Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park is amazing. It is a beautifully-lit fair with rides, food, and so much holiday joy. I wake up every day missing that city, and cannot wait to go back.
Kathryn Greisiger  
Keele Univ.  
Spring 2016  
The United Kingdom, and England especially, is an amazing gateway to the rest of Europe. With my program, not only did I meet UK students, but also students from all over the world. My semester abroad gave me the chance to discover my strengths and weaknesses and who I am as a person, and gave me a greater understanding of how the world works.

Kristen Hillson  
CSB Summer Study Abroad in London and Hatfield, UK - Faculty-Led  
Summer 2016  
Studying abroad in England has been the best experience I've had so far in college. Experiencing cultural differences for an extended period of time has taught me to adapt in a way I've never had to before. I feel more culturally aware, empathetic and understanding to people from different cultures. Exploring the city of London was my favorite part of the program. From walking across the Tower Bridge, touring Buckingham Palace, shopping on Oxford Street and discovering local restaurants I enjoyed every minute that I spent in the city.

Clark Hollar  
Univ. of Hertfordshire – Direct Program  
Spring 2017  
Hertfordshire, England is a 20+ minute ride to London, an easy transition from the U.S. to Europe and easy place to find inexpensive travel options to other countries. London, is a clean beautiful city, jam packed with cultures from every corner of the world and creates a culturally satisfying abroad experience. London is one of the banking capitals of the world, so as a business major, there are many networking opportunities for students to take advantage.
Jasmine Hughes  
Roehampton Univ. – Direct Partner  
Spring 2017

While in London I fell in love with the Camden area, it was so diverse and energetic, not to mention full of amazing food! I loved the areas near Roehampton, Putney and Hammersmith, including a cafe by the name of Smugglers. Another favorite, just two hours away is Brighton and their 5 star “Talk of Tea”, I also traveled to several other countries in Europe, since the flights are so reasonable, so why not study in the UK?

Lindsay Johnston  
Keele Univ. – Direct Partner  
Spring 2017

I would advise anyone with a passion for history or the outdoors to study in England. Every city that I visited was phenomenal and the scenery is lush with greenery. Overall just living abroad and seeing another way of life was one of the most amazing experiences of my life. My favorite place in England was Trentham Gardens. The gardens were also breathtaking and photogenic and I loved the surrounding shops!

Bailey Moore  
Univ. of Hertfordshire  
Spring 2016

From the hundreds of free museums in London to the rolling hills in the country side, England has a lot to offer. You really get to immerse yourself in English culture by staying on-campus at a university and living either with people from England or other international students from around the globe.
Ryan Ricks
CSB Summer Study Abroad in London and Hatfield, UK - Faculty-Led

Summer 2016

England was a very worthwhile experience. My favorite place was the Harry Potter Museum. It was part of my life growing up, and is part of who I am. I got to see part of myself in real life action.

Terra Shiles
Univ. of Hertfordshire
Fall 2016

My favorite experience in London would have to be during the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas; we shared different dishes from all over the world since they had never gotten to experience it and they were so excited. Then at Christmas, we all participated in secret Santa and you could tell by the gifts that fit perfectly how well all eleven of us had gotten along and how much we cared for each other.

Laura Tapia
International Internship in London – Faculty-Led
Summer 2017

Studying abroad allows one to become patient and tolerant. A study abroad experience can serve as a time of self-reflection, which can lead to self-discovery. My favorite experience in my host country was a holistic one. I enjoyed the pace of the city, the portions of food sold and consumed, prices of toiletries, the artistic culture from classical to street art, and the English accents!
Melissa Trainer  
Univ. of Hertfordshire  
Spring 2016  
Although my University in England was not directly in London, being only 20 minutes away from the heart of the city was the best part of my experience in the country. London is a city that is deep-set in its history and roots, but it is also an ever-changing and modern-minded city. For anyone that has the opportunity and desire to enhance their educational career, studying abroad is something I would highly recommend because it has truly changed my life in so many positive ways.

UK-SCOTLAND

Hannah Box  
Univ. of Stirling - Direct Partner  
Spring 2017  
The moment I fell in love with Scotland was on my trip to the Highlands and the Isle of Skye. The winding roads took us through the magnificent Glencoe, where mountains capped with snow surrounded us, guiding us north. The Isle of Skye is a sheep-speckled hillside, stretching for miles, and the land ending only with cliffs that plunge down to meet the icy sea. Scotland gave me confidence, understanding and respect for every culture, and a longing for more adventure.

Jessica Draughn  
Univ. of Stirling - Direct Partner  
Fall 2016  
My twenty-second birthday fell on the second of a three-day tour of the Scottish highlands. Driving over the bridge to the Isle of Skye, the view consisted of rolling green valleys and crystal-blue lochs for miles all around. It was the most beautiful place I have ever laid eyes on. Vast mossy-green ridges spread out as far as my eyes could see. The clouds wove themselves in and out of the span of valleys. Being up there in the clouds, looking down upon this natural wonder, I knew that my life would never be the same. I would have stayed at that spot for the rest of my life if I could. The magic I felt there will always be with me, and I have to say that I believe that no other birthday will compare to that one.
Madison Henderson  
Univ. of Stirling - Direct Partner  
Spring 2017

Stirling, Scotland is similar to UNCW in size, location, community and offers a safe environment to learn and make friends. My most cherished moment abroad, was when my friends and I went to a museum in Glasgow, and older man who worked at there, called us over to the piano to teach us the Scottish National Anthem. It was so fun and we were all singing “Love Song”, by Sara Bareilles, and taking turns on the piano sharing our love for music.

Sarah Hicks  
Univ. of Stirling - Direct Partner  
Summer 2015

In Stirling, you can study in one of the most beautiful parts in the world, surrounded by lakes, castles, and lots of history. The flexible class schedule and university’s central location allows you to explore Scotland and the rest of Europe during your time studying abroad. You will be able to meet many Scottish people, who I believe are some of the friendliest people in the world.

Rebecca Hunter  
Univ. of Stirling - Direct Partner  
Fall 2016

Stirling is a quaint, beautiful town that allows a person to grow in their ideals and knowledge surrounded by kind and helpful Scots. My most enriching experience in Stirling was living on campus with several other students that were studying abroad and being able to learn about their traditions. I believe that Scotland was a turning point in my life, and I would love to encourage others to seek out the adventure that being in Scotland allowed me to have.
Heather Jensen  
Univ. of Stirling - Direct Partner  
Fall 2016

Scotland is a beautiful, green, and wild country. I would recommend students study in Scotland if they love nature and history. There are wonderful mountains, but there are also bustling cities and castles. What I found most enriching about my study abroad experience was learning how to communicate intercultural. I met so many international people and I found an appreciation for so many cultures, languages, and ways of life different from my own. It opened my eyes, and I really grew as a person.

Amber Mangione  
Univ. of Stirling - Direct Partner  
Spring 2015

My absolute favorite places in Scotland were the Highlands and the city of Edinburgh. The Highlands are breathtakingly beautiful and seem so unreal that it feels like you are in a different world. Edinburgh is full of history and offers tourists plenty to do, from hiking on Arthur's Seat to shopping and museum-wandering on the Royal Mile.

Samantha Ruark  
Univ. of Stirling – Direct Partner  
Spring 2017

Scotland is filled with friendly people, a rich history, beautiful landscapes and Stirling University offers a great learning environment. My favorite experience while abroad was the Highland tour given by local international students where we spent the weekend learning about Scotland's history and folklore, met other students at surrounding universities, and toured the Highlands and Isle of Skye. I truly have never been in a place that beautiful.
Alexandra Yilanes  
Edinburgh Napier University/School of Nursing and Midwifery - ISEP  
Fall 2016  

Stirling is a quaint, beautiful town that allows a person to grow in their ideals and knowledge surrounded by kind and helpful Scots. My most enriching experience in Stirling was living on campus with several other students that were studying abroad and being able to learn about their traditions. I believe that Scotland was a turning point in my life, and I would love to encourage others to seek out the adventure that being in Scotland allowed me to have.

UK-WALES

Samantha Badgett  
Swansea Univ.  
Spring 2015  

Located in the U.K., in the country of Wales, Swansea is perfect for those who want to travel abroad, but don't want the stress of living in a foreign country; Language is not an issue, since everyone speaks English. While in Swansea there will also be a group of UNCW students and an honor's professor, who, like yourself, is first learning what it is like to be living in the scenic country of Wales. Wales has some of the world's most beautiful beaches and ancient castles loom amongst the rolling hills filled with thousands of Welch sheep.

Yaritza Delgado  
Swansea Univ.  
Academic Year 2015-16  

You should study abroad in Wales because it's such a magnificent and beautiful country. Swansea is not only full of really friendly people and knowledgeable lecturers, but is also next to the beach! The city centre is very close and provides many things to do, from grocery and clothes shopping to laser tag and cinema. Everyone in the city makes you feel at home and it is very easy to get used to the way of life there. I met the most amazing people and made incredible friends that helped me grow as a person and taught me that family does not have to be blood-related.
Alexandria Dempsey  
Swansea Univ.  
Spring 2016

Wales is a fantastic place because its charm is unparalleled anywhere else. University life in Swansea is a great balance between learning and experiencing. I think that traveling across Europe during spring break and seeing how differently people as a whole act around the world was incredibly worthwhile. I think that studying abroad in the UK is enriching because society there has a perfect balance between the familiar and the new.

Logan Ikenberry  
Swansea Univ. – Direct Partner  
Spring 2017

The UK, U.S. and other international students at Swansea University were extremely accepting and friendly, which made Swansea feel like home! I liked that the UK culture was enough like America that homesickness was not an issue, but still felt like I was experiencing another culture. Swansea is surrounded by beautiful landscape including the Gower. The grassy green cliffs by water and grazing sheep looked like a place I dreamt about as a kid.

Julia O’Malley  
Swansea Univ. – Direct Partner  
Spring 2017

Swansea, Wales, a small city on the water, surrounded by beautiful areas like the Gower Peninsula, Cardiff, and my favorite village, Tenby. Tenby Island is quiet and dynamic, with lush forests, striking sea cliffs, and home to a beautiful monastery that looks like it came right out of a fairy tale. It was a perfect retreat, with delicious chocolate made by the monks. Although Wales is it easy to travel to other places, I enjoyed staying local and immersing myself in the culture that was right there.