

Study Abroad

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According to nytimes.com, students who study at universities in Asia are encouraged to take part in a study abroad program with a partner school in the U.S. Bowling Green State University (BGSU) supports this study abroad trend, with multiple partner universities throughout Asia. The belief is that studying abroad allows these students to be challenged in their courses and more marketable for future career placement.

Students from universities in Asia, like Senior Physics major, Yeonhwa Kim, and Junior English major, Shiyan Liu, are currently studying abroad at BGSU.

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Kim is from Incheon National University in South Korea, and Liu from Hunan Normal University in China. Both expressed the fact being at BGSU has been a completely new experience. They explained that they like the “downtown atmosphere” and attending events they normally don’t get to at home, like watching hockey games and attending World Student Association (WSA) meetings.

Kim stated, “In South Korea, you are judged against everyone else. The U.S. makes me feel like an individual and the teachers are so helpful.”

Liu agreed the professors and the classroom environment in the U.S. are unique.

“Participation really matters here; it is more than just a final and homework. Plus, I get to sit wherever I want which is pretty cool,” said Liu.

Kim and Liu have also faced some challenges while studying abroad at BGSU. Not only being exposed to a new setting, both are thousands of miles away from home as well. Trying to understand the class structure, eating “American food” and overall, being homesick hasn’t been easy for them. However, they both agreed they have adapted to the culture and have so far enjoyed their encounter studying abroad.

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Likewise, BGSU alumna, Chris Workman, wanted to study abroad in a location “not all people get to see.” He said BGSU had a great relationship with the school he selected to travel to. Fall 2015, his senior year, Workman went to Hong Kong Baptist University in Hong Kong, China, taking courses in finance.

“There will always be struggles when you have to be self- supporting in a new atmosphere. Language barriers and being away from family was the toughest part of the trip for me,” Workman stated.

He noted his highlight from Hong Kong was being surrounded by international students from 23 countries. He also mentioned he had a recent interview at Pricewaterhousecoopers Inc. They were impressed with the obstacles he overcame in a foreign country. Workman received the position and is now an intern at the PNC branch doing finance.

Students who have never studied abroad may be curious and have questions when deciding if they want to take the next step in the program. Study abroad faculty member, Nathan Richardson, gives advice to all undecided study abroad students.

He said, “It is all about globalization. Take advantage to network with other students from cultures and backgrounds uncommon from your own.”

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He explained studying abroad can be a “transformative” experience for students. Being immersed into another country can give you memories and a new perspective to looking at life.

More universities today are forming study abroad partnerships with other schools, giving students the chance to break out of the norm of daily life. BGSU will continue to strengthen its relationship with universities in Asia and other universities around the world.

When trying to define study abroad, Dr. Richardson gives a short and universal interpretation: “Be around those who see the world differently.”

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[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), Cao Li, “Chinese Students and U.S. Universities Connect Through a Third Party”



