Ringing in the New Year
How to start planning your Education Abroad experience for 2018

The first snow has fallen in Bowling Green and Fall Semester 2017 is rapidly coming to a close. As you start planning your New Year’s resolutions, consider making an Education Abroad experience one of them!

Why should this be the year for an education abroad opportunity?
Going abroad and immersing yourself in another culture is an incredibly self-reflective and rewarding experience. You can learn a second language, forge international friendships, engage with international aid and development, and partake in unique courses. An Education Abroad experience is a gift to yourself that keeps giving, as the lessons you learn will stay with you for a lifetime.

Additionally, international education experiences are seen as a huge advantage by employers for new graduates. For most industries, globalization and international markets are one of the top priorities. Companies look for competitive, new employees who demonstrate intercultural sensitivity, critical thinking skills, and second language competency.

I’m curious, but how can I get started?
The best way to begin organizing your time abroad is to come to an Information Session, where you can learn about the types of programs we offer, financial aid, and much more. This is the required first step for all students, so be sure to come to a session as soon as possible!
You can also start researching options through our Program Search. Be sure to check out some of our Summer and Fall programs!

What’s on the horizon for Education Abroad in 2018?
Some of our newest initiatives include our Summer in Spain BGP courses, as well as our BGSU Global Internship. Click here to stay tuned for exciting new developments in these programs throughout 2018!
Additionally, you can always check out our events calendar!

What is the deadline to apply to go abroad in 2018?
For most Summer and Fall programs the deadline is March 1st, 2018, but be sure to check your individual program’s requirements!

Social Media
Like our Facebook and Instagram pages! Stay updated on upcoming events, deadline reminders, and new developments:

Website: http://www.bgsu.edu/educationabroad/
Email: edabroad@bgsu.edu
Student Ambassador Highlight
Lillian King

Check out this month’s featured student ambassador: senior Lillian King, a creative writing major with a history minor!

Which program did you participate in?
I participated in the Keele University Exchange Program during the Spring 2017 semester and was a Hoskins Global Scholar the summer after my semester.

What was one of your favorite experiences during your time abroad?
One of my favorite experiences was visiting Canal Street with my friends in Manchester, which is historically the hub of the LGBT+ community in England. We had a great time out going out and seeing places that are where many gay British shows are filmed, and while it was bittersweet because it was one of my last nights in England, a lot of my favorite memories come from that night.

How did Education Abroad help you grow personally/academically/professionally?
Education Abroad helped me orient myself in the world: literally. I’m pretty bad at directions, but through traveling different countries, which often had streets and towns in a different alphabet than ours, I was able to learn how to keep myself on track as I traveled, and I only got lost once or twice, and never for too long.

What was a challenge you faced while abroad?
One of the challenges would be the time I did get lost the most—I was in Poland, and their train systems aren’t as good as the ones I’d gotten used to in Western Europe, so I had trouble figuring out which train to get on. After watching my train pull away in the station, I proceeded to get on three wrong ones until I ended up at a station big enough to have a departure board, where I got on the last train of the night going to my destination.

What would you like to say to students interested in Education Abroad?
Do it! Whatever want to do, wherever you want to go, do it! Make it work! It’ll be so worth it, I promise. You may not know what you’re going to find on the other side, but whatever it is, you won’t regret it.

International Education Week in Review
Looking back at a great week of events!

International Education Week 2017 was an incredible week jam-packed with educational and cross-cultural events. From welcoming new U.S. citizens at the Naturalization Ceremony, to the International Career Panel Discussion helping students achieve their professional goals abroad, IEW had something to offer for everyone.

Goals of International Education Week
At BGSU, International Education Week is a time not only to engage with issues of global development, but with the Bowling Green community as well. Many IEW events partner with multiple offices and entities from around campus as well as the city. Activities such as the Holiday Parade, International Night at the Doyt, and the Naturalization Ceremony would not be possible without cooperation with local partners and vendors.

We’d like to give a big thanks to the Office of Multicultural Affairs, World Student Organization, the BGSU Football Team and Department of Athletics, the Four Corners Center of Bowling Green, Mayor Dick Edwards, and all of our partners for their collaboration and participation in IEW 2017!
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SCENES FROM IEW 2017

International Dinner
The Student World Association hosted their annual International Dinner, which included foods from all over the world, many guest speakers, international fairytales, and a fashion show for traditional and cultural clothing!

Mary Kate Traficano
What are some of your roles in the Education Abroad office?
I am the Education Abroad Student Adviser. I wear many hats in the office but my main role is to guide students through the entire education abroad process. This includes program selection, application process, pre-departure planning and re-entry support. I am here to make sure each student has the best experience possible.

How has education abroad impacted your life?
Education Abroad changed my life for the better and literally propelled me on to my current career path. I had an amazing time when I went abroad in college and craved more experiences like it. I was fortunate enough to study, work and live abroad multiple times, which ultimately inspired me to complete a master’s degree in International Higher Education. I learned a lot from this program and it allowed me the opportunity to study abroad two more times. Now I get to talk about my passion for international education every day and encourage students to participate in this life changing experience!

What is International Education Week, why is it important to you and how does it impact BGSU?
International Education week is a way to celebrate international learning and understating around campus. It prepares BGSU students for a global environment and promotes all types of international experiences. It is important to me because it brings awareness about international initiatives and encourages cultural understanding. I also hope it motivates more students to seek international experiences.

Why is student participation a critical part of IEW?
Students are the reason we do what we do. Having their participation and involvement in IEW is essential to successfully bring awareness to the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. The more participation we have to more cultural understanding we can achieve.

How can students get involved in IEW in 2018?
Students can volunteer to help at many of our events or even submit their own ideas. More information can be found on our website: www.bgsu.edu/international-programs-and-partnerships and any questions can be directed to iss@bgsu.edu or edabroad@bgsu.edu

WANT TO SEE MORE PHOTOS?
You can see more photos, and learn more about International Programs and Partnerships here:
FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/BGSUInternationalProgramsandPartnerships/
Vaughn Thornton

When did you graduate from BGSU?
The first time I graduated from BGSU was in spring 2015 as an undergraduate. I graduated again in fall 2017 with my M.A.

What have you been up to since leaving BGSU?
I recently moved to Boston in January to work as a Regional Director for International Studies Abroad. Much of my time is actually spent in Pennsylvania recruiting students to go on our programs and working with faculty and staff to develop innovative global experiences.

How did Ed Abroad and International Programs and Partnerships influence your time at BGSU?
This is an interesting question, because I have multiple connections with IPP. Academically, I'd have to say that studying abroad twice profoundly shaped my collegiate experience. My semester in Alcalá de Henares will always be one of the most memorable parts of my time as a BGSU student. My language proficiency increased, and I learned so much more about Spanish culture. The most transformative experience for me, however, was learning about myself. Professionally, I owe my success today, and any future success to the time I spent working in the office. The opportunities I had to develop a deep understanding of international education, recruitment, and student development will stay with me forever.

How did you find out about this year's IEW, and which events did you participate in?
This year I had the opportunity to participate in a panel discussion surrounding underrepresented students going abroad.

What was a highlight from the week?
Unfortunately, because of my work schedule, I was only able to attend the panel discussion. However, I saw the list of events and they looked amazing! The annual International Dinner always seems to be one of the most awaited events of the year, and as a person who has helped to organize three of them, I was disappointed that I could not attend.

As an alumni, what would you like to say to students looking to get more involved with Education Abroad?
Do it again and again!! The Education Abroad office is dedicated to working with students to find experiences that directly correlate with their interests academically, professionally, or recreationally. International travel will always be possible in the future, but there is nothing that compares to doing it as a college student (grad or undergrad). There are so many organizations, scholarships, and resources available that every student should be able to find a way to have a meaningful experience outside the United States—even if it's just for a week.

Special Guests: The Vagabrothers

One of the biggest highlights of IEW was the special guest appearance of the Vagabrothers!

Who are the Vagabrothers?
The Vagabrothers, Marko and Alex Ayling, have made a multimedia career out of documenting their travels around the globe. Their shared goal is to inspire their massive audience to travel and understand the world in which we live in.

What platforms do the Vagabrothers create content for?
The Vagabrothers mostly create documentaries and web series for YouTube. They do everything from travel vlogs to lists and tips on how to travel on a budget! Marko and Alex are also very active on social media, including Facebook and Instagram.

Where have the Vagabrothers traveled to?
The duo have traversed many parts of the globe! Their most recent videos on their YouTube channel include stories from Peru, Canada, Ireland, Spain, Argentina, and South Korea. However, the Vagabrothers don't only travel abroad. They have many entries on both popular destinations in the US, such as cities on the West Coast and the National Parks, but also lesser known areas like the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Where can I check out some of their work?
You can find the Vagabrothers YouTube channel here. They also have their own website, where you can read blogs and articles from guest contributors. Marko and Alex both have individual Instagram accounts, as well as a joint account. Finally, you can check out their Facebook page as well for new developments!
Looking Forward: What’s coming in 2018

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FROM ALL OF US AT EDUCATION ABROAD:
HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

UPCOMING EVENTS

1/15—Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no classes
1/16, 1/30—Tuesday Table in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union, 11am-1pm
1/18—Get Involved Fair
2/1/2018—Education Abroad Spring Expo, 207 BTSU, 11am-1pm
2/9/018—Student Re-entry Workshop, 315 BTSU, 10:30am-12
2/13, 2/27—Tuesday Table, BTSU, 11am-11pm