



Homecoming: Life After Education Abroad

February 2018

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION ABROAD

#SPREADYOURWINGS

SPRING 2018

Not the End, But a New Beginning

International experiences beyond Education Abroad

So you just got back from an amazing Education Abroad experience: what now? Does this mean your chance to go abroad is over? Of course not! Keep reading for some great opportunities to go back abroad:

Go abroad again through BGSU!

There is no cap on the amount of Education Abroad programs you can participate in! Even if you've already spent a few semesters or a summer abroad, you could look into shorter program options during Winter Session and Spring Break.

Look for Masters or PhD programs abroad!

If your experience abroad inspired you to pursue further academic opportunities abroad, you might want to consider pursuing a graduate degree in another country. Canada, many nations in Europe, Southeast and East-Asia, the Middle East, and Africa offer graduate programs in English. Many universities from the United States also have satellite campuses in other countries. You can check out a list of U.S. campuses abroad [here](#).

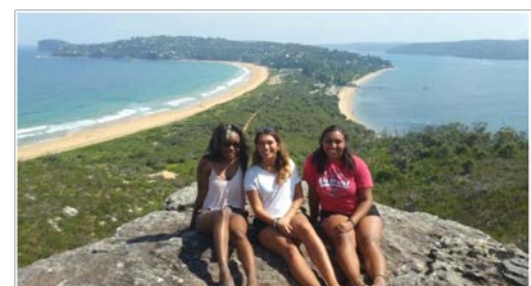
Volunteer with Peace Corps!

The Peace Corps is a program that was founded in 1961 by President John F.

Kennedy. It sends volunteers from the United States to "help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women, promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served, and promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans." Volunteers can work in [various sectors](#), including agriculture, community economic development, education, environment, health, and youth in development. You can learn more about which countries the Peace Corps is active in, as well as more about the program [here](#).

Find opportunities to teach abroad or conduct research!

There are many opportunities to teach and conduct research abroad for recent undergrad graduates! For example, many students participate in the [Fulbright Student Program](#) after graduation before attending graduate school. Participants in the program may apply for either an English Teaching Assistantship or a Research Assistantship. Keep reading on pages 3-5 to learn more about scholarship opportunities and the Fulbright experience!



Social Media and BGSU News

Like our Facebook and Instagram pages! Stay updated on upcoming events, deadline reminders, and new developments. Also, check out some of the headlines our students are making:



Website:
<http://www.bgsu.edu/educationabroad/>

Email:
edabroad@bgsu.edu

Education Abroad Student Ambassador Highlight

Allison Neary

This month's student ambassador highlight is Allison Neary, a third-year student completing a dual major in finance and international business!

Which program did you participate in?

I participated in the Exchange Program at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia.

What was one of your favorite experiences during your time abroad?

Some of my favorite experiences while abroad were meeting friends from all over the world, road-tripping the east coast and exploring the Great Barrier Reef.

How did Education Abroad help you grow personally/academically/professionally?

Education abroad changed my perception on life and my future for the better. It helped me grow into a more outgoing, free spirited, and easy going person. It taught me to look at the big picture of life and not care so much about the little things. I was able to learn



about my major from a global viewpoint, and was guided in the direction that I want to be in with my future career.

What was one of the challenges you faced while abroad?

One challenge that I faced abroad was the culture shock. Going to Australia, I did not think I would have any, because it was an English speaking country. However, seeing/hearing the different customs, language, and traffic patterns made me realize how different life is on the other side of the world.

What would you like to say to students interested in Education Abroad?

To the students contemplating studying abroad: Don't waste your time thinking 'it'd be so cool to do that', or 'I'll get around to it someday'. Instead, just go to an [information session](#), the sooner you look into everything the better! I was a firm believer that I would never be able to afford going abroad. Look into the [scholarship and financial aid options](#), as well as exchange programs, because I never thought that it could be as

affordable as it was. Lastly, this really was the best time of my life, and I hope that everyone can get a chance to do something out of their comfort zone, it will change your life for the better.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

You can find out about our Education Abroad Ambassadors' experiences at our Student Ambassador Webpage!

CLICK HERE TO SEE MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/ybrh5plt>

Gilman Scholarship

A unique scholarship for Pell Grant recipients!

Still looking for funding to help kick-start your Education Abroad experience? Keep reading to learn about this opportunity!

What is the Gilman Scholarship?

The Gilman Scholarship is to help students with limited financial needs pursue their study abroad dreams! There are over 2,900 scholarships of up to \$5,000 for study/internships abroad. Students wishing to study critical languages (such as Arabic, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Hindi, Swahili and many more) may qualify for and additional \$3,000 for a total of \$8,000 in scholarships.

Who is eligible to apply?

In order to apply, students must: --be a citizen of the United States;

- be an undergraduate student in good standing at an accredited institution of higher education in the United States (including both two-year and four-year institutions);
- be receiving a Federal Pell Grant or provide proof that he/she will be receiving a Pell Grant during the term of his/her study abroad program or internship;
- be in the process of applying to, or accepted for, a study abroad or internship program of at least three weeks for students from four-year institutions, in a single country and eligible for credit from the student's home institution. Proof of program acceptance is required prior to award disbursement

When is the application deadline?

In order for an application to be considered, it must be submitted by **11:59pm Central Time on Tuesday, March 6th 2018**.



Want to learn more about the Gilman Scholarship? You can read more at their website by clicking [here!](#)



“One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.” - Frank Smith



World Teach

Program length: Two months for summer programs; 10-12 months for long-term
Locations available in: Chile, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guyana, Marshall Islands, Namibia, Pohnpei, Poland, and South Africa
Eligibility requirements include: Must be at least 18 years old; Bachelor’s degree for year-long programs; commitment to teaching and international development; see website for further requirements.

Leaving the Nest

Opportunities to go back abroad after graduation

Many students who go abroad want to hop back on a plane the minute they get home, but also want to wrap up their degrees before hitting the road. If you’re interested in some post-graduate opportunities to go abroad, keep reading to find out about some amazing scholarship opportunities.

Austrian Ministry of Education - US Teaching Assistantships

Program length: Academic year
Eligibility requirements include: Applicants must be 29 years old or younger at the time of application.
Graduating seniors may apply; however they must complete their undergraduate degree before starting their teaching assistantship.

The American-Scandinavian Foundation

Program length: Academic year
The ASF Training Program gives American college students and recent graduates the chance to get an insight into the cultures and peoples of Scandinavia by undertaking an internship.
Eligibility requirements include: Must be 21 years of age, US citizenship or permanent residency, native English speaker, college junior, senior or within two years of graduation, and minimum 2.5 GPA.

Appalachians Abroad – Teach in China

Program length: One year commitment
Eligibility requirements include: \$100 application fee, a bachelor’s degree 2 months prior to departure, 2.8/4.0 undergraduate GPA, one year commitment beginning in late August, health exam, native English speaker, study abroad experience/cultural sensitivity, 500-word essay.

Chilean Ministry of Education - English Opens Doors Program

Program length: Varies
Eligibility requirements include: Native English speaker

Council on International Education Exchange (CIEE)

Program length: Varies; usually academic semester or year (6-12 months)
Locations available in: Chile, China, Dominican Republic, South Korea, Spain, Thailand, and Vietnam
Eligibility requirements include: \$50 application fee; have a Bachelor’s degree prior to departure; see website for further eligibility requirements

Cultural Embrace

Program length: Depends on location. See website for details.
Locations available in: Brazil, China, Columbia, France, Italy, Mexico, Thailand, and Vietnam

Czech Ministry of Education Teaching Program

Program length: Academic year (September through June)
Eligibility requirements include: application; have a Bachelor’s degree prior to departure; see website for further eligibility requirements

French Teaching Assistantship Program

Program length: Varies
Eligibility requirements include: American citizens or foreign nationals (not from France); between 20 and 29 years of age; have completed two years of higher education at an American institution; proficient in French.

Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (JET)

Program length: 12 months
Eligibility requirements include: Conduct in-person interview at nearest Japanese consulate or embassy; excellent English language skills; Bachelor’s degree (or will have by departure date); see website for further eligibility requirements

Language and Culture Teaching Assistants Program (Spanish Ministry of Education)

Program length: Academic year
Eligibility requirements include: Intermediate-High Spanish language ability; junior or senior college students; see website for further requirements

Teach and Learn in Korea (TaLK)

Program length: Six months or year-long
Eligibility requirements include: Current undergraduate student or recent college graduate; native English-speaker

Teach and Learn with Georgia (Georgian Ministry of Education)

Program length: One-semester or one-year contract (can be extended to two years)
Eligibility requirements include: Bachelor’s degree (preferred); native English-speaker; see website for further details

“WHEN YOU TRAVEL, REMEMBER THAT A FOREIGN COUNTRY IS NOT DESIGNED TO MAKE YOU COMFORTABLE. IT IS DESIGNED TO MAKE ITS OWN PEOPLE COMFORTABLE.” — CLIFTON FADIMAN

Full of Bright Minds: The Fulbright Program

BGSU Alumna and current English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Andi Haas and current Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Arwa Elabd share their experiences with Fulbright

Andi Haas—ETA in Berlin, Germany

1) When did you attend BGSU and what did you study?

I studied at BGSU from 2012-2017 and got a BA in German with a minor in European Studies and a BFA in Studio Art with a focus in Photography

2) What was your Education Abroad program through BGSU and how did it impact your life and studies?

I did two study abroad programs through BGSU, the first being Semester At Sea in summer of 2014, which was in Northern Europe and Scandinavia, and the second program was BGSU AYA Austria 2014-2015. Semester at Sea was kind of a whirlwind experience that really helped me to get a taste of a lot of a lot of different cultures. Since everything is so centralized on the ship it gave me an idea of what kind of positions are in higher education and study abroad/international education administration, as all of the students, professors, deans, and every other staff member lived on the ship together. So it opened up my eyes to the possibility to working for international education in some form. Austria was really a time that reinforced my love of the German language and Austrian/German culture and really inspired me to look into programs for after graduation to be able to go back to Germany or Austria.

3) What inspired you to apply for Fulbright?

After coming back from Austria I was infatuated once again with Germany and the language and going into my senior year I was still uncertain about what I was going to do career-wise. When I saw Fulbright ETA I saw it as an opportunity to test-drive a possible career option: teaching. I didn't study teaching in my undergrad but I had heard really great things about the program and new an alumnus so I decided to go for it.

4) What does your daily life in Berlin look like?

On an average school day I have around 4 to 5 lessons. I get to my school around 9:30 and am done with lessons by 2:30. The classes I

work with the most are the 10th and 12th grade but also have at least one lesson a week with the other grades and a refugee class. During my breaks between classes I



usually get a coffee with some other teachers or go to the work room to get some lesson planning or grading done. After work I go home and relax for a little bit before making dinner and reading or going out with friends to trivia, street food festivals, or a game night. On the weekends and my free days I usually go to a cafe and get a coffee and pastry while reading a book, doing some lesson planning, or journaling and also hangout with my friends in the evening when we all have free time.

5) How does your Education Abroad experience inform and influence your Fulbright experience?

Luckily most of my education abroad experiences have been in German speaking countries so I have been very fortunate to already be really familiar with the language. When I was in Austria I did an internship at a local Gymnasium with the art class as a teaching assistant, so I went into Fulbright with an idea of what the German classroom is like and how the teacher approached lessons and teaching. I also before BGSU did a gap year through Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange where I attended a Gymnasium as a student, so I had experience from other side of the Fulbright teaching assistant and could draw from those

experiences as to what lessons my peers and I liked and what was expected of them from the German school system.

6) Why should students continue to pursue opportunities abroad after graduation?

I think there is a real difference between being abroad through a university and in a university setting than other post-grad programs, like Fulbright for example. It almost feels more like real life in a sense because you aren't in classes everyday with the same 20-40 students and all living together and going on group trips, which is fun and exciting but pursuing something after graduation is more freeing...also somewhat terrifying, but ultimately very liberating because you have a support network through your program but a lot more freedom to live how and where you want to. And taking an internship, apprenticeship, Master's program position, or whatever it may be will allow you to view a country in a brand new way even if you've already been. These kinds of positions are also ones that most future employers will be very interested in and give you stories to tell the rest of your life.

7) What would you like to say to students considering applying to Fulbright?

To students considering a Fulbright I would say start talking to an advisor earlier rather than later because BGSU has a great team



that will help you get everything you need in order and will answer all of your questions, even the ones you think are really dumb but have honestly probably been asked a lot. Also make sure to look at all the programs Fulbright has to offer because there are more than one would think and all of them are amazing opportunities.

Full of Bright Minds (cont.)

Arwa Elabd, FLTA at BGSU, Dept. of World Languages and Cultures

Where do you come from and what did you study before coming to BGSU?

I am from Vienna in Austria. Before I came here, I finished my Master's degree in Teaching German and Spanish.

How did you find out about Fulbright?

It was a coincidence. A Facebook friend of mine who studied with me was posting pictures from the US on her social media accounts. I got very curious because I knew that I don't want to start teaching in Vienna as soon as I am finished with my studies, so I asked her about her program and it turned out to be a Fulbright Scholarship. After that, I contacted Belona Berchtaler, who is the person responsible for the Austrian Teaching Assistants. One thing lead to another and now I am here.

What made you want to teach in the United States?

Initially, the USA wasn't really on my radar; I also had a job offer in Palestine and I was looking at opportunities in Istanbul as well. But when I heard about Fulbright, I decided to apply and see what would happen. I received a rapid answer and decided to accept the scholarship. I am really glad I did because before coming to the US I had a lot of stereotypes about this country that turned out to be wrong.

What is your role here at BGSU?

I am mainly involved in the German Department. As a TA for German 1020, I also help organizing German Club (Tuesdays from 8-9) and Kaffeeklatsch (coffee language hour) sessions.

What are some of your favorite things about your experience?

There are many things that I absolutely love about my experience. First of all, I love working with my cohort and my supervisors. It is always a very enriching as well interesting experience. I learn so much from them that benefits me on my personal and professional level. Secondly, I am sure I made a lot of great friends here, for example my roommate. She spent three and a half years in Germany, so she understands my non-American mentality a little bit better than

other people. It is so great to have her. I also spent Thanksgiving with an American family, which was a wonderful time too and I think it was very special to be present during this important holiday.

I really like the campus a lot: taking a walk in the evening is one of the things that I really enjoy to do. Also, I love attending the courses that I chose this semester (as well last semester) because I learn(ed) so much from my professors and peers.

As an Austrian/Arab who knows how good coffee tastes, I discovered Flatlands as my favorite place in BG where I can get the best coffee and a bar of dark chocolate (Thank you, Rachel!). My friend Stephen who is always there just took me the other day to my very first hockey game and it was such a blast.

What were some unexpected challenges or surprises you faced?

The unexpected challenge that I am facing currently is connected to bureaucracy issues. So, I hope this will be solved soon.

What would you like to say to students considering applying to Fulbright?

That they should definitely grab the chance and try it! Fulbright is an amazing opportunity to not only discover the country of interest but it makes you learn so much about yourself too: since you have to stay for a year, you will learn how to deal with homesickness, starting new friendships, connecting to people and you will discover your own interests that you didn't think you've had. What I really liked about Fulbright is the constant help they offer you from the very beginning. Also, when you are done with your year, you will have the chance to network with many great people. One of the reasons why my roommate and I connected so well, was because she also had a Fulbright scholarship and this was the first common thing we had.



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

YOU CAN CONTACT MICHELLE PLOEGER, EDUCATION ABROAD AND FULBRIGHT COORDINATOR, FOR AN INDIVIDUAL ADVISING SESSION ABOUT FULBRIGHT! [CLICK HERE TO GET STARTED.](#)

Homecomings: Life After Education Abroad

International Programs
and Partnerships &
Education Abroad

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Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, OH 43403

419-372-0479

UPCOMING EVENTS

Weekly Information Sessions:

*Tuesday: 2-2:30 - Room 402
University Hall*

*Wednesday: 12-12:30 - Room 402
University Hall*

*Thursday: 12-12:30 - Room 402
University Hall*

*Friday: 10-10:30 - Room 402
University Hall*

3/13, 3/27, —Tuesday
Table, BTSU, 11am-
11pm