



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION ABROAD

What comes next: Life after Education Abroad

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March 2019

#FALCONSABROAD

SPRING 2019

Maximizing your Education Abroad Experience

Just because you're finally back from your Ed Abroad experience doesn't mean that it's over!

So you just got back from an amazing Education Abroad experience: what now? Keep reading to find out how Education Abroad is a gift that just keeps giving:

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. [The 2019 first-ever Winter Session was a huge success.](#) Students traveled all over the world, including Europe, the Caribbean, and Southeast Asia!

Visit the Career Center!

Did you know our [Career Center](#) provides advising for student who have been abroad? You can learn how to highlight your international experience on your cover letter and resume, as well as [explore opportunities for post-graduate careers and jobs](#) across the globe!

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 [page 2](#) 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

Student Ambassador Highlight

Rachel Harris says *Guten Tag* to Austria!

I am currently a fourth year at BGSU double majoring in German and International Studies with a concentration in Human Rights. I spent my spring 2018 semester in Salzburg, Austria. My absolute favorite experience I had was when my friends and I decided to take a bus out to Fuschl am See, a small town right outside of Salzburg situated around the mountains and a beautiful lake.

We stayed for hours playing soccer, lounging in the grass by the lake, and playing cards. My experience in Salzburg changed me in so many ways. I learned to be confident in myself, learned about multiple cultures first hand through travelling, and being able to extend my German skills while abroad. Going abroad also solidified my future goal of living abroad one day.

One challenge I did face was getting lost in the Munich train station my first day in Europe. I walked around the Munich train



program as well as outside of my program, I was able to travel to London, Dublin, and various places throughout Austria and Germany. I truly did learn so many things that I would never be able to learn here in the U.S. Going abroad may seem scary but you CAN do it! It was easily the best semester I have had yet in college and I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world!

station for 1.5 hours because there was only one elevator that went to the main train station. Although overwhelmed and scared, I learned that to be successful in situations. You must keep a level head—something I have had a hard time with in the past and am thankful my time in Austria helped me learn this.

To students interested in going abroad, DO IT. Going abroad changed me in so many ways! I have gained so many friends from my

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

YOU CAN READ MORE ABOUT OUR STUDENT AMBASSADORS AND STUDENT TESTIMONIALS BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE:

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

Did you know? All of the photos featured in our newsletters are submitted by students and staff from their Education Abroad Experiences!



Events for Post-Graduates

Education abroad does not have to end after graduation! Keep reading to learn more.

Student Tables 4/2, BTSU 11am-1pm

Education Abroad will be hosting a Post-Graduate Grants and Opportunities to Go Abroad table at the BTSU student tables from 11am-1pm on April 2, 2019! Be sure to stop by for information on the Fulbright Student/Scholar Programs, Peace Corps/Coverdell, and other fellowships and grants for teaching and researching abroad!

Want to learn more? Contact Education Abroad at edabroad@bgsu.edu, or call 419-372-0479. You can also find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FalconsAbroad/>

Fulbright Student Program Information Session 4/4, Room 307 BTSU, 10:45-11:30am

Education Abroad will be hosting an information session on the Fulbright Student Program!

"The Fulbright U.S. Student Program provides grants for individually designed study/research projects or for English Teaching Assistant Programs. During their grants, Fulbrighters will meet, work, live with and learn from the people of the host country, sharing daily experiences. The program facilitates cultural exchange through direct interaction on an individual basis in the classroom, field, home, and in routine tasks, allowing the grantee to gain an appreciation of others' viewpoints and beliefs, the way they do things, and the way they think."—from <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/about/fulbright-us-student-program>

We strongly encourage juniors and seniors looking for post-graduate funding to teach and research abroad to come learn about this amazing scholarship program!

Student Ambassador Highlight

Jessica Wheeler tells all about her time in Belgium!

What year are you in and what are you studying?

I'm a 4th year at BGSU studying business with a specialization in Supply Chain Management and Information Systems. I will be graduating in 2021 due to my majors.

Which program did you participate in?

I participated with Artevelde University College Exchange Program in Gent, Belgium. This program is a school partnered with the College of Business. I did a spring semester experience in 2018.

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

One of my favorite experiences abroad was meeting new people from around the world and traveling with them. Being able to meet people of different cultures was such an experience. I never really thought other students around the world would be so different and similar to me. We all became very close in a short amount of time. We all still talk every day and are making plans to see each other next year.

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

Education Abroad helped me grow personally, academically, and professionally. Personally, I never knew I could go to another country all alone. No one from BGSU went with me and I didn't know anyone when I got there. I also had to make friends with people that English wasn't their first language. Everything I thought I knew about myself was tested while I was gone and it made me stronger. Academically, the structure was something I had never experienced before and I had to adjust along the way in order to pass my classes. Professionally, I gained information on how to properly interact with other countries.

What was one of the challenges you faced while abroad?

One challenge I faced while I was abroad was the huge difference from Belgium to the United States. Many rules and structures

weren't the same and it completely threw me off my game. Within my first month, I had to do many adjustments to make the rest of my time better. When I stopped trying to compare everything to the United States my time got 10 times better!

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

If any students are interested in Education Abroad I would say to do it if they can because it's an experience you most likely will never experience anywhere else. Yes it can be scary and overwhelming, but challenging yourself will make it the experience completely worth it. People will be tested on some things they know and it will help people grow as a person. Definitely do all your research on the right program then everything will fall into place. If you have even a small feeling of wanting to do Education Abroad try to fit it into your schedule.



Student Ambassador Highlight

Julie Myers says bonjour to France!

What year are you in and what are you studying?

I am a third year French major and creative writing minor. However, I spent my entire second year as a foreign exchange student in France. I originally wanted to study multiple languages, but I decided that I wanted to specialize in French because it was what I liked the most. I have also always loved to write and have found that being a writer and a language major works well with my interests, not to mention that now I can use my language skills to better my writing. It's even more exciting because there are so many French romantics in classic literature!

Which program did you participate in?

I participated in the Montpellier student exchange program for a full academic year. I was one of the first three students that got to experience this program in its beginning stages. The Montpellier program is really special because it used to only be a summer program, but in 2017 it began its semester and year-long program. This program also presents a three-week orientation session. During this session you have the chance to be in a class about three hours about 4 days out of the week and then take excursions to see surrounding cities in the region.

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

My most favorite experience was one that was recurring. I was able to independently involve myself with two groups in the city. This led me to getting connected to people enough that I was volunteering in a café about 3 hours a week including teaching English and giving 'cultural presentations' to French students and adults. I remember asking a barista at this café if she knew of any groups in the area similar to the organization that ran the coffee shop and she got me connected with a Bible study every week. I remember that I walked to a stranger's apartment (I met the woman one time and knew no one else) not knowing any other person that was in the room when I showed up, and then those strangers became my biggest support group throughout my stay in France.

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

I learned more about what my goals were for my future career and I learned how important it is to communicate with those around you even if it doesn't seem that it will benefit you. When I came back from France I recognized how much I just missed the ease of a conversation with people and my desire to just get to know people, I am more social than I have ever been and now have every desire to speak and to get to know people. I recognized that I should be passionate about what it is that I am doing, and if I'm not then maybe I should make a change in my routine, and that every day counts for

something, and no time you have is wasted when doing that. In a professional/academic sense, I now take my work more seriously and put my focus into it all at once, as when I was in France, I had to pay attention to nearly everything that I was doing. If I didn't, then someone may take me the wrong way, and I could also completely miss what was in front of me when it could have been crucial information that wouldn't be repeated. Backing off that same idea, if I missed my volunteering one day, I would feel very disconnected from the people that I encountered weekly, and if I didn't go, I would be making my time with them a lot shorter, so it was important to me that I showed up every time.

What was one of the challenges you faced while abroad?

One of the biggest challenges I faced was fear of not being good enough for the native speakers that they wouldn't want anything to do with me. I remember having so much paranoia and anxiety talking to a girl I sat next to in my Italian course and I could tell she wanted to spend time with me. However, I was so caught up with the fact that sometimes she didn't understand me that I felt like I couldn't spend time with her and we never actually got the chance to be friends. Further, it took me at least a month before I even tried to have a conversation with the barista at the café I volunteered at, if I had just asked sooner, I would have gotten the chance to have a friend a lot sooner than two and a half months after I arrived. The challenge of this fear was hard to overcome, and I'm glad that I grew my confidence.

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

Level zero is still a level, and odds are you at least heard the word 'bonjour' in your lifetime, or you know how to say "English?" in another language, one word counts for something, because once you say it to anyone, you will get some sort of response, and then you can go from there. Do not be anxious about your level. Fake your confidence (not to be mistaken with emotions) until it feels real because odds are, the people around you are having a lot of fun with you, not thinking about how they have a hard time understanding you. Did you ever think a foreign exchange student was weird because they struggled? You know much more than you think, and in the moment, you just may be drawing a blank and that is OKAY, what matters is that you are standing back up (maybe not right away) once you fall. All the 'mediocre' days get tied in with the 'bad' days, but if you put them in with the good days, then your time will feel much more worth it.



What comes next: Life after Education Abroad

Education Abroad &
International Programs
and Partnerships
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0479

UPCOMING EVENTS

Weekly Information Sessions

Located in Room 402

University Hall

Tuesday: 2:00-2:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 12:00-12:30 p.m.

Thursday: 12:00-12:30 p.m.

Friday: 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Tuesday Table, Bowen-
Thompson Student Union
3/26, 4/16, 4/30

Post Graduate Abroad
Opportunities and Grants
Tables, Bowen Thompson
Student Union
4/2

Fulbright Student Program
Information Session
4/4, , BTSU Room 307

Fulbright Scholar Program
Information Session
4/9, , BTSU Room 307

Pre-Departure Orientation
4/23, 6pm-8pm 115 Olscamp
4/24, 4pm-6pm 115 Olscamp
5/3, 4pm-6pm 115 Olscamp