



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION ABROAD

# Celebrating International Education: IEW 2018

## November 2018

#FALCONSABROAD

FALL 2018

## Golden Anniversaries

Both the BGSU in Spain and BGSU in Austria programs turn 50 years old!

Two of Education Abroad's flagship programs are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. Keep reading to learn more about these programs and how they are celebrating this incredible milestone!

### BGSU in Austria

During July 2018, BGSU President Rodney Rogers and Dr. Marcia Salazar-Valentine, executive director of BGSU's International Programs and Partnerships, traveled to Salzburg to help commemorate the BGSU in Austria program. Over 60 alumni, representing almost four decades of graduates, came to celebrate as well. You can [read more about the event here!](#)

The BGSU in Austria program provides students of all majors with the chance to take courses in language, literature, culture, and general education (including social sciences and fine arts). Students of all majors are eligible to apply. For the semester-long programs, students must have completed at least 2 semesters of German language instruction, or demonstrate equivalent proficiency. Students who wish to apply must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 or higher.

### BGSU in Spain

In 2019, the [BGSU in Spain program](#) will also turn 50! Festivity planning is underway in Alcala de Henares. The BGSU in Spain program also hopes to highlight the introduction of the BGSU Global Internship.

The BGSU Global Internship program is a professional internship combined with academic study. Students can be placed at major global corporations, international NGO's, or local businesses. Students will also simultaneously enroll a BGSU language or culture course. Most students work an average of 30 hours a week in addition to their language/culture course. Students of all majors are welcome to apply.

No prior Spanish language experience is required to apply to the BGSU Global Internship! Depending on when you go (Spring/Fall semester, Summer), you can earn anywhere from 1-15 credits! The BGSU Global Internship has also expanded to Lisbon, Portugal and London, England.

If you want to learn more about the BGSU Global Internship, [click here!](#)



### 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](mailto:edabroad@bgsu.edu)

# International Education Week

Celebrate IEW with International Programs and Partnerships and Education Abroad!

In the month of November, International Education Week is worldwide celebration of global engagement and citizenship through academic exchange! IPP and Education Abroad will be hosting a myriad of events. Keep reading to find out about more!

## Tuesday 11/13/2018

- **Naturalization Ceremony, BTSU Ballroom 11am-12pm**—welcoming new citizens to the United States!
- **Tuesday Table and Fulbright Table, BTSU student tables, 11am-1pm**—Come learn more about the Fulbright program, as well as our Education Abroad programs.

## Wednesday 11/14/2018

- **Hoskins Global Scholars Presentations, 210 University Hall, 2pm-5pm**—Come to learn about the projects of our Hoskins Global Scholar Recipients!

## Thursday 11/15/2018

- **English Language Services (ESL) Passport to Diversity, BTSU 228, 10:30am-12:30pm**
- **Community Tree Decoration and Lighting, Four Corners Downtown BG, 3pm-5pm**
- **Study Abroad Exchange Meet and Greet, Black Swamp Pub (BTSU), 5pm-7pm**—Speak with current exchange students and mingle with returning study abroad alumni!

## Saturday 11/17/2018

- **World Student Association International Dinner, BTSU Ballroom, 6pm-9pm**—Come for beautiful performances, delicious food, and much more!



## Monday 11/19/2018

- **Explore Study Abroad Exchange Programs, BTSU student tables, 11:30am-1:30pm**

### WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Keep up to date with all our events by checking out our events page [here!](#)

## Get your passport through Education Abroad

Applying for your first passport has never been easier!

International Programs and Partnerships and Education Abroad are pleased to announce that we are now a Passport Acceptance Facility!

### What is a Passport Acceptance Facility?

A Passport Acceptance Facility is a public sector office that is designated to accept and execute passport applications on behalf of the United States State Department. Passport Acceptance Facilities verify the information of applicants using [Form DS-11](#), which includes all first-time applicants and all minors.

### How long will it take to receive my passport?

Routine processing for a passport is 4-6 weeks. If you submit your passport directly through the passport acceptance facility or USPS, expect it to take the full amount of time. If you need your passport faster than 4-6 weeks, you will need to expedite it.

### Why should I get my passport through Education Abroad?

One of the aspects of students' first time abroad that can be particularly intimidating is the paperwork and bureaucracy needed to start your journey. By coming to the Education Abroad office to apply for your first passport, we can help walk you through the process, and help ensure your documents are processed in a timely manner!

### When will this service be available?

You will be able to apply for your passport through Education Abroad starting on **November 1, 2018**. Every applicant in November will receive a BGSU Luggage Tag! The **first FIVE applicants** in November will also receive a "BGSU Global Falcon" sweatshirt! **Every student applicant** in the month of November will be entered in a raffle to win a Travel Gift Basket worth \$200!



# Education Abroad—not just for US-American BGSU Students

International student **Phuong Emily Nguyen** tells all about her experience at VU Amsterdam!

I know it is rare for an international student to study abroad again but studying abroad was one of the most valuable decisions I have ever made. The idea came since I ran into one of my friend who just finished his semester abroad in Australia. After listening to his story, I decided to look deeper into the study abroad program at BGSU. With the support from the College of Business and the Hicks Travel scholarship, especially Dr. Tim Chamber and the International Student Office, I decided to spend my Spring semester of 2018 at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands as a Business Analytics major.

Even though it was my second times going abroad, I was nervous. I thought I would not make any friends here because I didn't know Dutch and the Dutch culture. Nevertheless, Amsterdam turned to be a place where I built lifetime friendship with people from all over the world. My friends and I came from different backgrounds, different cultures, have different accents, but we were all going on adventures together. I started to learn a new language, to manage my time between school and traveling, to adapt to any environment, and to try the food that I thought I would never eat. By the end of my fifth month in Europe, I was able to speak some basic Dutch, made many new friends, visited 8 countries with more than 25 cities, and created unforgettable memories. I became a better version of me – happier and wiser.

Though the experience of the social life is fun, I did not forget that one of my goal to go abroad was to study. Vrije Universiteit is a top university of the Netherlands, so the expectative from the students are very high. Students are expected to read a decent amount of academic journals and industry articles

to prepare for the lecture and exam as well as group projects within 6 weeks. With the classes of 350 students, no professor office hours, final exam weight 80% - 100% of final grade, and balancing time to travel, I thought it was a challenge. However, it was not that bad. Reading these papers kept me up to date of what is going on in the business world, and the digital teamwork with real company case gave me a sense of working in a global team and understand how business works in Europe. With these experiences, I landed a summer internship with an international company in America while I was overseas.

Coming back to the U.S. for an internship was bittersweet because the whole Amsterdam experience was an INCREDIBLE dream for me. It opened my eyes to see what I have not seen in 21 years. It taught me to appreciate the culture, the people, and the most – the differences between everybody in every place. It helps me become more knowledgeable in my field of study with global eyes and stronger my belief in "life begins at the end of your comfort zone". Thus, you only live once, go and see all you possibly can.

## SCENES FROM LIFE IN THE NETHERLANDS



Emily at the Rijksmuseum



Cruising the canals



Clomping around in *klompen*, or traditional Dutch wooden shoes at the Keukenhof

## Student Ambassador Highlight

Keep reading to find out about Education Abroad Ambassador Hannah Lanfear's experiences in France!

### What year are you in and what are you studying?

I am a senior double majoring in French and Political Science.

### Which program did you participate in?

I participated in the exchange program with the University of Tours in Tours, France during the Spring 2018 semester. I chose this program because I felt that the exchange style program offered me more independence in that I got to choose my own classes, take classes and live in a university residence alongside French university students and better be able to immerse myself in the French culture, but also the culture of being a regular French student. It allowed me to easily make non-English speaking friends and participate in the university's programs. Though I got to interact a lot with the other exchange students, it also gave me the space to branch out from that, which made my experience really adventurous and more authentic.

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

It is impossible to answer this question with only one experience/memory. I am so happy to have made so many new friends. I am still in contact with my French friends but also with the other exchange students from all over the world. Their friendship has brought me so much excitement and new perspective. I loved being able to discuss culture, politics, life experiences, etc. with them. Spending time with them exploring the city also makes up some of my favorite memories, especially when we would buy pastries and sandwiches from the incredible local bakeries and take them to the river that went through the city to have a picnic.

I was also really fortunate to have traveled outside of France during my stay. The extensive train system made it really easy to

travel to other cities in France, as well as other countries. I loved taking day trips to other French cities and touring the old French castles. Outside of the country, I got to visit the United Nations building in Geneva, Switzerland and the European Union buildings in Brussels, Belgium (amongst eating tons of chocolate and waffles) and in Strasbourg, France. I also climbed a mountain in Switzerland and visited the coast of Spain, which are things I never thought I would do.

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

I grew in so many ways thanks to my study abroad experience. First and foremost, my French skills improved a lot. I found myself speaking faster and more fluidly and my vocabulary expanded greatly. In terms of academics, I was put outside of my comfort zone with my classes being taught in French and admittedly, I did get grades lower than my usual average at BGSU. However, this was very much a growing experience for me because though I wasn't perfect, I figured out how to adapt and adjust my expectations and it pushed me to work harder. It also gave me a great opportunity to connect with my French classmates more in that I was able to study with them.

Personally, I think the biggest lessons I learned were in being adaptive, flexible and a better problem-solver. In travel, and in life, things never go exactly as planned and studying abroad made me more comfortable accepting that. One time, I was traveling alone by train to return to Tours from another city and I accidentally got on the wrong train and I didn't realize it until I ended up at the wrong train station. I had to think on my feet, use my French and get myself on another (correct) train to get back to Tours. Through all of my experiences, I got more comfortable with being uncomfortable and really opened my mind to new people, ideas, foods, experiences and ways of life.

### What was one of the challenges you faced while abroad?

I think the biggest challenge for me was to be confident in myself and my ability to speak French. At first, I would be so embarrassed by my mistakes and I let it discourage me a bit from speaking. It took me some time to accept that it was okay to not speak my

second language perfectly and to not be embarrassed when I made mistakes and be comfortable asking for corrections.

As I mentioned earlier, I also got slightly worse grades than I normally receive at BGSU and this was something that really bothered me at first. I had to accept that my classes were extra challenging because they were not taught in English so naturally, I wasn't going to get a 4.0 that semester. I had to adapt to the different teaching style and grading system and change my expectations of myself in this different learning environment.



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

DO IT! Do not let your hesitations stop you from doing it! The idea of leaving home for weeks or even months seems scary at first but once you do it, it's not scary at all and it will be the highlight of your college career. I would also like to squash the myth that you need to be learning another language to go abroad. There are plenty of opportunities to go to English-speaking countries or to cities where most citizens have English skills. Education Abroad is an amazing opportunity to branch out, grow and see the world and by the end of your experience you will be wishing to stay longer.

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Education Abroad &  
International Programs and  
Partnerships

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday Table, Bowen  
Thompson Student Union  
(every other Tuesday):  
10/30, 11/13 (with Fulbright  
information), 11/27,

Veteran's Day (No  
Classes): November  
12, 2018

International Education Week  
11/13-11/19 (see page 2 for  
more details)

International Dinner (World  
Student Association)  
11/17, 6-9pm BTSU

Thanksgiving Break:  
November 21-23, 2018

Pre-Departure Orientation:  
11/27: 113 Olscamp, 6-8pm  
11/28: 115 Education, 4-6pm  
12/7: 115 Education, 4-6pm

Winter Break:  
December 14, 2018-January 1,  
2019

Winter Session:  
January 2-23, 2019

ALSO: SEE PAGES 6-7 FOR  
MORE FLIERS AND EVENTS!

YOU'RE INVITED TO AN  
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION MONTH

# Study Abroad Exchange Meet & Greet



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Speak with current exchange students and mingle with returning study abroad alumni. Exchange programs provide immersive experiences with opportunities to explore the host country! Water, tea, and appetizers provided.

WHAT

WHEN

WHERE

RSVP

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH  
5:00PM - 7:00PM

THE BLACK SWAMP PUB  
(BTSU)

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

**BGSU.** | INTERNATIONAL  
Programs & Partnerships  
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

For more information contact:  
Edabroad@bgsu.edu or 419-372-0479

# BGSU EXPLORE STUDY ABROAD EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Monday, November 19, 2018

11:30-1:30 p.m.

BTSU Student Tables

Stop by BTSU to learn more and speak with current international exchange students and study abroad alumni who participated on exchange programs. Test your luck in the Cash Cube and enter to win free prizes!

Questions? Contact [edabroad@bgsu.edu](mailto:edabroad@bgsu.edu) 419.372.0479

**Win prizes  
at the  
Raffle  
Vault!**



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