



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION ABROAD

Spring Break and Beyond: Short Term Programs

March 2018

#FALCONSABROAD

SPRING 2018

Gone Abroad, Not Gone Forever!

Shorter Term Education Abroad Experiences

Have you ever wanted to go abroad, but weren't sure if you wanted to commit to spending a whole academic semester or year? Keep reading to find out about some of the amazing short-term programs Education Abroad has to offer!

What is the benefit of a shorter Education Abroad program?

Many students choose to go on shorter programs for various reasons. Some have family and/or work obligations that don't allow for an extended leave of absence. Other students really want to make the most of their time on campus. Some Falcons even decide later on during their degree that they'd like to go abroad, but have required classes that occur during Fall and Spring semester. In all these cases, a shorter term program helps students fulfill their dreams of an academic or professional experience abroad without creating time management conflicts!

When are short-term programs offered, and what is the duration?

Education Abroad offers programs during Spring Break, Summer Term, and the upcoming [Winter Session](#) in January

(programs were also previously offered during the Winter Break)! Programs may vary depending on the curriculum and itinerary of the program. Some trips are as short as 7-10 days (such as spring break) and others may run 3-6 weeks (such as in Summer or Winter Session).

Who can apply for these programs?

All students in their second semester at BGSU who meet the program requirements and are in good academic standing may apply to Education Abroad programs! However, be sure look at the program page for each opportunity you're considering, as some programs have varying GPA or major-specific requirements.

How do I apply for a short-term program?

The required first step to apply to any Education Abroad program is to attend an [Information Session](#)! Once you've attended an Information Session, you can sign up for an individual advising session with our Education Abroad Advisor, Mary-Kate Traficano. In the meantime, you can check out our [Program Search](#)!



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

Kami Lynn Sammetinger

Want to hear about a recent alumni's experience? Keep reading to find out more about this Communication Science and Disorder Major's experience with Education Abroad

Which program did you participate in?

I participated in a three week faculty led education based program in both Australia and Fiji.

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

One of my favorite experiences abroad was visiting a Fijian village outside of Nadi, Fiji. We hiked over 2.5 hours up Sleeping Giant Mountain and spent the night in a cave. We learned about the culture, ate some of the BEST homemade traditional Fijian food, and I got to spend time with not only my classmates but the village people as well. I will never forget the kindness they showed



us and how much they taught us. I dreaded the hike but overall it was so worth it and I will never forget this experience.

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

Personally, going abroad allowed me to become more independent and more grateful for not only the opportunity but for every aspect in my life. Education abroad also impacted me in a professional way as well. I am a Communication Sciences and Disorders major and studying the diverse education systems of Australia and Fiji while comparing them to the USA solidified how passionate I am about my future career.

What was one of the challenges you faced while abroad?

The greatest challenge I faced while abroad was getting used to the 12-16 hour difference and keeping my energy up throughout the day... especially when we visited Australian/Fijian schools.

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

To all those considering Education Abroad, just do it!!! It is one thing to say you want to go abroad but it's another to take the leap and actually do it! I promise you, you won't regret it and your life truly will be changed for the better. I will be forever thankful to have had this opportunity through BGSU.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

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

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

Fulbright Application Goes Live

For post-undergraduate teaching and research opportunities



What is Fulbright?

The Fulbright Program is a great opportunity for students who wish to have an education abroad experience after graduating from BGSU! As the Fulbright website outlines:

"The Fulbright U.S. Student Program offers research, study and teaching opportunities in over 140 countries to recent graduates and graduate students. A network of nearly 1,600 volunteer Fulbright Program Advisers on campuses nationwide assist in the recruitment.

More than 3,600 candidates are recommended by 157 subsections of the National Screening Committee, composed of 457 senior faculty or field of study professionals."

Why should I apply?

For students who may not have had a chance to go abroad during their undergraduate studies, Fulbright is a great way to gain teaching and/or research experience while also receiving federal funding!

How can I learn more about the Fulbright Program?

Education Abroad will be holding information sessions in April to help students initiate the application process! These will occur on:

Tuesday April 17—University Hall, Room 209, 12pm-1pm

Thursday April 19—University Hall, Room 209, 12pm-1pm

Want to learn more? You can check out the Fulbright website [here](#).

You can also contact Michelle Ploeger, Fulbright Coordinator, at mploeger@bgsu.edu.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER FLOCK TOGETHER



Instagram Mania

Many of the photos featured in this month's newsletter were taken by Education Abroad's Graduate Assistant, Sarah Heineken. She spent her spring break in the Netherlands and Belgium and did an [Instagram takeover!](#) Want to submit photos to Education Abroad? You can message us on [Facebook](#) or email edabroad@bgsu.edu to submit to our Dropbox!

Spring Break in the Netherlands and Belgium

Catching up with Professor Michael McKay and student Cassidy Dobson on their Spring Break faculty-led trip to Vlissingen, Netherlands!

1) What is your name, how long have you been at BGSU, and what do you teach/study at BGSU?

MM: Dr. Michael McKay, Professor of Biology. I've spent 20 years on faculty at BG and am Director of Marine Biology Program and teach marine biology and limnology.

CD: Cassidy Dobson, I've been at BGSU for 4 years. I'm studying marine biology and environmental science.

2) Why did you choose to create/participate in the Marine Biology-Netherlands trip?

MM: I learned of the partnership with HZ University in 2016 from Dr. Marcia Salazar-Valentine. Marcia and her counterpart at HZ put me and my colleague George Bullerjahn in touch with Jouke Heringa who oversees the applied aquaculture program at HZ. During 2017, we exchanged class lectures using the distance teaching classrooms in Olscamp. As we run a Marine/Aquatic Sciences field trip abroad each spring break, we decided to plan one focused in the Dutch aquaculture industry. As we have implemented training in aquaculture as part of our Marine Program, we felt this would be an excellent opportunity for students to see the potential in the industry.

CD: I chose to take part in the Netherlands trip because it was encompassing a section of marine biology that I hadn't really investigated, aquaculture. It was a branch of marine biology that I didn't know much about and I figured I'd go and get hands-on experience with what aquaculture entails; maybe discovering that I liked it. I also wanted to take the opportunity to go to Europe and see the advancements they were making in the field, while experiencing Dutch culture.

3) What was a trip highlight?

MM: Visits to the various aquaculture facilities in Zeeland province. This included an oyster farm (along with tasting!), several indoor fish farms (turbot, yellowtail tuna) and a seaweed harvesting facility. We also got to experience at the mussel auction that takes place in the coastal town of Yerseke.

CD: I think, academically speaking, a highlight for me was going to the Kingfish

Zeeland Hatchery. Getting to see how they had the hatchery set up and how they were expanding was incredible. The size of the operation being run was huge, millions of fish were to be raised in this hatchery, all being sustainably kept using eco-conscience technologies. Then obviously, getting to explore the Netherlands with a group of peers was amazing. Most of the students that went on the trip I've spent most of my time here sharing classes with them, yet, never got to know them. Getting to meet them, hangout, and become friends was awesome!

4) How does an Education Abroad experience enrich students' studies?

MM: It opens their minds to opportunity.

CD: I think an Education Abroad experience helps to enrich a student's studies because it gives them the opportunity to see different aspects of the major they're in. They get to have hand-on experience seeing how the information that they're studying gets put into a "real world" setting. They can get to experience an area of study within their field that they may enjoy doing that they previously wouldn't have thought to pursue for themselves.

5) What would you like to say to students considering an Education Abroad Program?

MM: Take the plunge – it is very rewarding.

CD: I would like to tell students looking into an Education Abroad program that it's 100% worth everything you put into it. The money you spend on it, whether you're going for a semester or just 10 days, will be well worth the price. I know, personally, money was a huge road block that almost made me not go, but I'm glad I convinced myself that I wasn't going to miss it. The experience is unlike anything you could ever get being on campus. It puts your major and career goals into focus, while also giving you the opportunity to see another culture with a group of people who will become some of your best friends.

Life after BGSU:

Catching up with exchange students from the University of Amsterdam

We were able to catch up with former BGSU exchange students Britt Lighthart, Laura Koolman, and Karez Jola (also seen from left to right in the photo on this page)! Keep reading to find out what they have to say about their time at BGSU.

1) Where are you from and what are you studying?

BL: I am from The Netherlands and I study applied linguistics.

LK: Aruba originally. But now Amsterdam. I'm studying biomedicine.

KJ: I am from Amsterdam and I am in the last year of my 3 year Bachelor's course Science, Business & Innovation.

2) How did you decide to spend your time abroad at BGSU?

BL: I could choose between an internship and studying abroad. I thought study abroad would be so cool.

LK: I wanted to go abroad, and BGSU offered good courses in my field, I also liked that BG was smaller than Amsterdam.

KJ: I did not want to have any obligations during my semester abroad. That's why I didn't join any club or sorority during my stay. I wanted to be able to travel whenever I wanted and to meet new people as much as I could.

3) What was your favorite thing about your time abroad?

BL: The people. I did not expect that American people are so friendly and sweet. I had the feeling that nobody felt better than other people.

LK: The people. It was really easy to make friends at BG. Going out was always fun.

KJ: My favorite thing was definitely meeting new people and making friends from all over the world. I met a girl who invited me to her family and I tell all my friends that that weekend with her family was the best weekend I had during my exchange. I got to see how a true American family lives and they were so welcoming and nice. Besides that, I loved that I was able to see Columbus, Ann Arbor, Chicago, New York, and some cities in California.

4) What as a challenge you faced while studying abroad?



BL: The language. Before I came to the US I was scared to talk English. My English is still not amazing but it is definitely better because of my time abroad.

LK: There was less access to cheap healthy food in BG. There was practically no public transport. I also met some people who were kind of small minded.

KJ: The only challenging thing for me was that, obviously, all of my family and friends continued with their lives. Even though I was having so much fun, I kept feeling like I was missing out on stuff back home.

5) What was it like transitioning back to life in the Netherlands?

BL: It was easy for me. Nothing had changed in my hometown so it did not feel like I spend 5 months abroad.

LK: I think harder than for most, because I'm not from here.

KJ: To me, it was easy because I was quite ready to leave BG. I am from a huge city with the best public transport and I ride my bike everywhere. And in BG I felt a little stuck, I had to depend on my friends to drive me to places. So when I got back to a big city, I noticed that I missed it a lot.

6) Do you have more contact to international students at your home campus since you've studied abroad?

BL: Not yet. I would love to, but I have a really small major group. So it is just that I have not met them yet.

LK: Sort of. But I already did before I left to study abroad. I really enjoy the international community.

KJ: Naturally, I don't have as much contact with them as I would like, but I barely have time for all my friends at home. I got a new job and I am trying to graduate and decide which Master I would like to do after getting my Bachelor's degree.

7) What would you like to say to BGSU students considering going abroad?

BL: Do it! There are so many benefits. And even if you do not like some things in that country, it could also be positive because you will appreciate your hometown.

LK: Do it, it will be amazing! You make a lot of new friends and you become much less afraid of taking on new challenges. Also you learn about different cultures and get a broader world view.

KJ: I would say that they should DEFINITELY do it! It is an amazing experience and it is your experience only, no one can take that away from you. You get the opportunity to live in a different country, to make new friends, and to see more of the world. What more could you wish for?

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International
Programs and
Partnerships &
Education Abroad

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University
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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*

Tuesday Table, BTSU,
*11am-11pm 4/10—Tuesday
Table with Damien
Marshall, AIFS
Representative*

Pre-Departure Orientation

*4/10—6pm-8pm, Rm 115
Education Building*

4/11—4pm-6pm, Rm 115 Olscamp

Fulbright Info Sessions

*4/17—University Hall, Room 209,
12pm-1pm*

*4/19—University Hall, Room 209,
12pm-1pm*