



International Eyes @ TU

Towson University Study Abroad Office
8000 York Road - Towson, MD 21252
Admin Bldg., RM 246 (410-704-2451)
studyabroad@towson.edu
www.towson.edu/studyabroad



Study Abroad Information

sessions:

- Monday-Friday at 2 p.m. in our office
- Every Friday at 11 a.m. in the Liberal Arts Building (Rm. 2150)
- Learn about study abroad options and requirements
- Browse our resource library

Inside this issue:

More from Study Abroad Returnees	2
Living Abroad Comparison	4
International Student Spotlight	5
Faculty-led Program Highlight	6
Photo Contest (continued)	7
Local International Cuisine	7

Discover Yourself

We asked study abroad returnees what they learned about themselves as a result of studying abroad. Here's what some of them had to say:

- ◆ *"I learned how to be a lot more independent... to appreciate what I have in my life. And to stop complaining so much because there are people who have it worse than I do."* (Rachel Wieczorkowski – Venice, Italy)
- ◆ *"I learned that I'm capable of more than I think. I learned that I can adapt to any situation."* (Nikki Webster – Chengdu, China)
- ◆ *"I learned that I was willing to experience something completely outside of my comfort zone."* (Tyler Goldberg – Seville, Spain)
- ◆ *"I learned to be more comfortable with myself and not hesitate to meet people."* (Sarah Small – Auckland, New Zealand)



William Saffell ~ Peru, Spring 2011

Picture This

First Place Photo! - "Bagpipes in the Highlands"




This photo - taken by Robert Ross in Glencoe, Scotland - won first place in the Fall 2011 Study Abroad Photo Contest! Robert studied abroad in the summer of 2011 with IFSA-Butler in Stirling, Scotland.



A Few Words From Study Abroad Returnees



Kevin O'Conor ~ Florence, Italy

See the world!

What they didn't miss...

"Once you are away from things you are used to having, they become obsolete."

Tyler Goldberg ~
Seville, Spain

- ◆ American food
- ◆ The "in a rush" lifestyle that we have in the US
- ◆ Urbanized and industrialized cities
- ◆ Pressures of America
- ◆ Towson nightlife
- ◆ The weather



Tessa Durney ~ Newcastle, Australia

...What they miss now

- ◆ The food
- ◆ The scenery
- ◆ Living life without worry
- ◆ International friends
- ◆ Host family
- ◆ The parks
- ◆ Being able to walk everywhere
- ◆ Traveling to different countries easily
- ◆ The lifestyle
- ◆ The accents and the people
- ◆ The charming streets



Jessamyn Souders ~ Buenos Aires, Argentina



You could have class at the ruins at Machu Picchu in Peru!

How do classes compare?

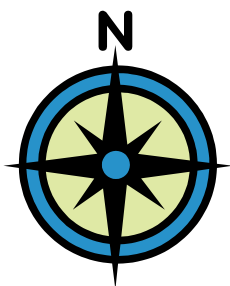
“We only met twice a week. One was a big lecture and then later you had a tutorial, which was a more in-depth discussion based on the same class with only about 25 people.”
(Heidi Sandberg – Newcastle, Australia)

“They were much more hands on-hiking, being outdoors in nature. We were able to look at, touch, smell, hear what we were learning and not just talk about it.” (Dovid Kozlovsky – Peru)

“The professor-student interaction was a lot different. I felt like I could talk to my professor as a friend, and I liked that.

There wasn’t such an emphasis on their level of superiority.” (Brenda Ferrufino – San Jose, Costa Rica)

Funny “finding your way” moment



“One time when we were out exploring China without a Chinese speaker, which we often did, I needed a bathroom and none of my friends or I had our phrase books, and we didn’t know the right word for “bathroom.” So I acted out squatting down in front of a guard and just asked “Where?” in Chinese. He laughed so hard and pointed me in the right direction.” (Nikki Webster — Chengdu, China)

What to pack—the travel must-haves!

- Good walking shoes
- Good map
- Phrase/translator book
- Snacks
- Small Suitcase
- Rain jacket
- Hiking boots
- Sleeping bag
- Neck-pillow
- Blanket
- Underwater camera
- International phone
- Electrical converter
- Spinner luggage so it can spin 360 degrees
- Sunscreen



Whether in a big city or a rural area, someone with a good sense of direction is always a plus!



LIVING ABROAD

A COMPARISON OF COMMON HOUSING OPTIONS

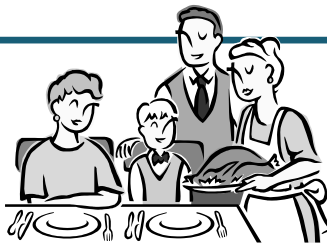


Apartment

"I lived in an apartment with other international students. The whole complex was 50% Aussies and 50% international students. In my apartment there was an Australian girl and guy, a Malaysian girl, a girl from Zimbabwe, and me. Everyone was so nice, and it was great meeting people from all around the world." (Joe Dilorio – Newcastle, Australia)

"I lived in an apartment with Spaniards. It was great that I could use the language all the time and meet a bunch of people from the area."

(Stephanie Katsaros – Alicante, Spain)



Host family

"I lived with a host family. The best part was learning the language very quickly and becoming a part of an actual Spanish family." (Tyler Goldberg – Seville, Spain)

"I lived with a host family in both Buenos Aires and Lima. You can't beat the home cooked meals for breakfast and dinner. I loved always having someone to practice my Spanish with and direct me around the cities. I felt at home away from home, and I know I will always be welcome to come back and stay." (Jessie Garrett – Peru and Argentina)



Dorm

"I lived in an international dorm and the best part was that I was with all of my friends from my program, but the con was that I lived with all Americans so I did not get to mingle with too many Kiwis." (Sarah Small – Auckland, New Zealand)

"I lived in a dorm. The best part was that there were no dryers, only clothing lines on the roof of the dorm and in our dorm rooms. I really liked it. I miss being able to ride my bike everywhere. Driving is so overrated."

(Nikki Webster – Chengdu, China)



STUDY ABROAD IN THE USA?

Insight from Anne-Charlotte Corbel, an international student from France here at TU

1. How long have you been in the US?

I've been in the US since 2007, so 4 years now.

2. Where do you call "home"?

Baltimore has become my home even though I don't always feel at home here. I can feel I am not from here and that I am still culturally different, but I am at home here.

3. What took you the longest to get used to here?

Probably the social interactions. People here act differently than in France, and I find it difficult sometimes to build meaningful relationships, especially on campus. I still struggle with that sometimes. I'm also still adjusting to the political differences which are cultural differences most of the time.

4. How long did it take you before you felt connected to the campus?

It took me a little while to get adjusted to campus especially because I am a commuter. I had to learn that I had to make an effort and get out there.

5. How has your academic experience been different than it would have been in your home country?

School here is very different. First of all, studying here requires you to take many different classes ranging from art classes, to science classes, to social sciences, which I think is great. It forced me to broaden my mind and to learn about subjects and issues that I would have never heard of previously. One of the other main differences here is that teachers are more available for the students; they actually care if you succeed, and they help you very easily.

Test those taste-buds!

Can you guess where each of these crazy delicacies are eaten?

- 1) An egg wrapped in meat
- 2) Kangaroo
- 3) Snails with pasta and risotto
- 4) Vegemite
- 5) Bull Tail
- 6) Guinea Pig
- 7) Blood Pudding
- 8) Blood Sausage
- 9) Horse



- a. Australia
- b. Italy
- c. Mexico
- d. Peru
- e. Spain
- f. United Kingdom

Answers: 1) c. 2) a. 3) b. 4) a. 5) e. 6) d. 7) f. 8) e. 9) e.



Spend a Summer in Greece!

Q&A with the Faculty Director, Jennifer Ballengee

What is your educational background?

I have a PhD in Comparative Literature from Emory University. Classics, specifically 5th c. BCE Greece and the Late Antique world, remains one of my primary specialties, in research and teaching. I'm the Director of the Ancient Mediterranean Studies (formerly Classics) program here at Towson.

Where in the world have you traveled?

I've travelled all over Europe (France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, The Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia, Austria, Switzerland, and Greece). After studying abroad in France in the summer of 1997 (while I was in graduate school), I travelled for the first time to Greece with a Greek friend of mine. I'll never forget how exciting and foreign it seemed to me; I ended up at his mother's village on the island of Ikaria where no one except for my friend and me spoke English! Since that first trip, I've been back to Greece as often as possible. I've also travelled in the Hawaiian islands, the Caribbean, and Canada.

Do you speak any foreign languages? French, German, and some modern Greek.

What motivates you to take a group of students abroad?

I love giving students the chance to experience a place that's very foreign and different. It's a pleasure to introduce students to new aspects of a culture, including foods, manners, language, architecture, and landscape. I also led a study abroad trip to Greece in 2007.



Can you give us an overview of your program?

We're learning about Greek culture and history from the ancient world to the present by looking at ways in which ancient Greek myth, culture, and architecture have been understood and utilized in Greece during specific and significant moments in its history, from the 8th c. BCE to the present. Students can receive undergraduate course credit for ENGL 471, CLST 370, or graduate course credit for HUMA 602 by taking and passing this course. Class will happen at specific architectural sites almost every day, but we'll also have class meetings some evenings, often sitting with a view of the Mediterranean. Each student will give a presentation, write a book review, do a modest amount of reading for the course, take a final exam, and keep a travel journal. Undergraduate students will write a five-page paper; graduate students will have a few extra meetings with the professor and complete a 20-page research paper. We'll also have a few group meals together.

How do the group excursions tie into the overall theme of your program?

The course consists of group excursions to sites that feature ruins of ancient Greek sanctuaries and living spaces. At each site, we will learn about the cultural significance of these places and how they have evolved over time.

How will this experience benefit the students in future endeavors?

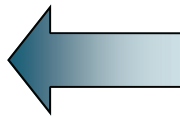
Travel abroad in any guise opens the eyes and the mind to new ideas and new ways of doing things. It broadens our perspective and teaches us to respect and understand difference. When we return home, we see the familiar with new eyes, as well. This specific trip will give students knowledge of the cultural roots of the western world. It will also give students an understanding of how culture is preserved and maintained throughout the ages and what kinds of ideological and rhetorical uses it may find. The trip will expose students to a rich wealth of art, architecture, food, and language. Learning to function in a foreign culture gives us poise and maturity; dealing with the unexpected in foreign travel gives us the confidence to know that we can meet challenges and successfully work through them. In sum, the experiences students have and the knowledge students gain on this trip will enhance and benefit their future endeavors on both a personal and professional level.



Winners of the Study Abroad Photo Contest

Second Place

"As clear as an azure sky of deepest summer"



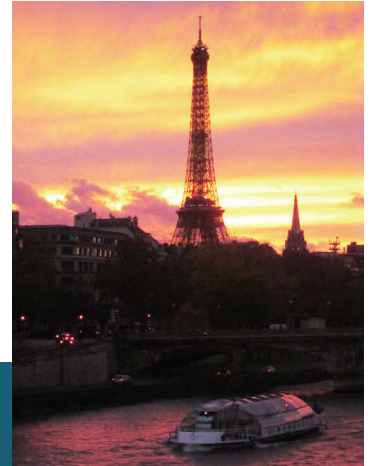
Joshua Hansen studied abroad in Summer 2011 with South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Gokyo, Nepal

Allison Brown studied abroad in Fall 2010 with TU Rouen Business School Exchange in Rouen, France



Third Place

"Sunset over the Eiffel Tower"



Thank you to all who entered the photo contest. Be sure to check out winners from past semesters at www.towson.edu/studyabroad/photocontestprevious.asp

Craving international food? Miss the excitement of trying something new? On a college budget?

- Indian/Nepali – Kathmandu Kitchen (22 Allegheny Ave, Towson)
- Peruvian/Mexican – Pollo Amigo (714 York Rd, Towson)
- Mediterranean/Middle Eastern – Baba’s Mediterranean Kitchen (745 E Fort Ave, Baltimore)
- Vietnamese – Pho Dhe Thanh (510 York Rd, Towson)
- Italian – Cafe Troia (28 Allegheny Ave, Towson)
- Irish – Ryan’s Daughter (600 East Belvedere Ave, Baltimore)
- Thai/Japanese – Thai One On (10 W Pennsylvania Ave, Towson)
- Korean – Purim Oak Restaurant (321 York Rd, Towson)
- Argentinean – Max’s Empanadas (313 S High St, Baltimore)
- French – The French Press Cafe (27 E Chesapeake Ave, Towson)

Join a language and culture “meetup” group in the Baltimore area! There are well-established groups for Americans and foreigners alike to get together and discuss culture, and even practice speaking skills in Spanish, French, Korean, German, Russian, Chinese, Vietnamese, and more! Search by your language of choice:

<http://www.meetup.com/find/>



Kevin O’Conor ~ Florence, Italy



GET INVOLVED

Study Abroad Alumni Group

Come share your study abroad experiences with other study abroad alumni and get leadership and mentorship experience working with diverse students. By joining this new SGA-affiliated group, you will also make connections and learn to network with other students, faculty, groups, and community members. You can also help us to educate members on other international opportunities and plan events that promote study abroad on-campus.

Mark your Calendars

For more information, email us at peeradvisor@towson.edu

Thurs., Feb. 9	Study Abroad Fair	11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Potomac Lounge, University Union
Sat., Feb. 11	Baltimore Regional Reentry Conference	10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Andrew White Center, 4th Floor Student Activities Room, Loyola University Maryland
Tues., Feb 14	TU in Italy Information Session	12 - 1 p.m.	Loch Raven Room, University Union
Thurs., Feb. 16	Study Abroad Scholarships Information Session	12 - 1 p.m.	Loch Raven Room, University Union
Tues., Feb. 21	TU in Australia Information Session	12 - 1 p.m.	Loch Raven Room, University Union
Fri., Feb. 24	Peace Corps Information Session	4 - 5:30 p.m.	Career Center, 7800 York Road, Ste. 206
Wed., Apr. 4	TU-UK Direct Information Session	2 - 3 p.m.	Room #314, University Union

Kennith Abel ~ Chengdu, China

Plan Ahead

Term	Typical Application Deadlines
Summer 2012 and Fall 2012	March – April 2012
Minimester 2013 and Spring 2013	September – October 2012

Spread the Word! Information sessions are held Monday through Friday at 2 p.m. in the TU Study Abroad Office and also in the Liberal Arts building every Friday at 11 a.m. (Room 2150).

