



RAZORBACK

PARENT NEWSLETTER

Study Abroad Edition

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Why Should Your Student STUDY ABROAD?

1. ENHANCED EXPERIENCES

Students who study abroad continue to earn credit towards their degree while overseas. They may even get the opportunity to take a class that is not offered here in Fayetteville – one that is wholly unique to that country. The experiences students have while studying abroad often ignites their interest in academic pursuits, and they return home with an added vigor toward their coursework. Students also get a more well-rounded education that better prepares them for this increasingly global workforce.

2. GROWTH & FRIENDSHIPS

When your student studies abroad, he or she will make lifetime friendships with fellow American classmates as well as with native students. The memories and friendships made could last forever and could open your student up to a global network of job prospects and connections. Living and studying overseas fosters a sense of teamwork in students -- as the group travels together, they experience the challenges of a multicultural situation together. Students also learn independence, inquisitiveness, proactivity, and how to provide and solicit help.

3. CULTURAL EXPOSURE

Students who participate in study abroad programs are more reflective about their own culture and what that culture has instilled in them. Students are likely to have increased respect for other cultures and this openness to different approaches makes them better problem-solvers and team players.

4. SELF AWARENESS

Students increase their self-confidence when they live and study in a foreign country. They also increase their independence and maturity. It is important to have the ability to adapt – an ability that studying abroad can give your student. Students often return home ready to change the world, which is important, as they will be the future leaders of this country. The self-reliance and global sensitivity students gain from studying abroad can help them in their personal and professional pursuits.

5. CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Approximately 1% of American students have studied abroad, according to the latest “Open Doors” report by the Institute of International Education. Studying abroad can help your student gain a competitive edge when it comes time to start a career. Employers often seek employees with the ability to speak other languages or understand other cultures. Studying abroad is imperative for students who wish to enter international business, and employers look for the skills study abroad students have, such as communication, analytical abilities, teamwork and flexibility. As more and more entry level job seekers are armed with a bachelors degree, it is even more important for your student to stand out. They can do so by doing something different, and studying abroad achieves that.

“Best semester/experience of my life. I feel more confident and I know more about the world and myself than I could have ever learned in a classroom.”



Exchange Programs: A WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT



You might be wondering, what exactly does exchange really mean? The short answer is – the University of Arkansas sends students to host universities around the world, and in exchange, international students from these host universities come to the U of A, typically for a semester or academic year.

Students from every college can participate in these programs -- from engineering to humanities, mathematics to hospitality management, and foreign language to business. While some exchange programs do require some proficiency in a foreign language, many have coursework available in English.

Not only are exchange programs a great way for students to experience life as a student at a foreign University, but also it's a very affordable way to gain experience abroad. Students on exchange programs pay for 15 hours of U of A tuition and fees, just as they would for a normal semester in Fayetteville, though they take their coursework abroad.

By participating in an exchange program, students can study throughout Europe, Asia and Australia. Specifically, the University of Arkansas has partner universities in Australia, Austria, Brazil, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Spain, and Sweden. Depending on the location, students

may live with a host family, in dorms on campus, or in an apartment with other students. Many of the U of A's partner universities are located in cities that have a similar feel to Fayetteville, with a safe, friendly, comfortable atmosphere. But, unlike Fayetteville, most are very close to large metropolitan areas, and many are only a few hours from another country.

"One of the best things about my experience in Newcastle [Australia] is that it's the perfect size. It's not too big or too small. There are quiet suburbs, but there's a bustling downtown and you're only 2 1/2 hours from Sydney if you're looking for something bigger. It's an ideal, laid back city that has a lot of history, culture, and sites to be seen and absorbed," said a recent Chemical Engineering major who spent a semester in Newcastle, Australia.

"I learned that although the world is large we are all still people and so we like the same things...just in another language. Everyone wants to be happy. Everyone likes good food. The trip opened my eyes to the world. But most importantly, this was the first opportunity I have ever had to get in touch with myself and figure out personal questions that I had yet to be able to answer. All in all this was a great time that I am sure will go down as one of the most monumental times in my life!"

Because students are charged the equivalent U of A tuition and fees for 15 hours, the total estimated budget for most exchange programs is usually close to what students would pay to complete a semester in Fayetteville, with the addition of airfare and travel money. But it isn't just about affordability; it's also about experiencing a different world view and new perspective.



THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE *Rome...*

Nestled in the heart of Rome, the University of Arkansas's Rome Center is the perfect study abroad opportunity, especially for rising sophomores. Anchoring this study abroad program is its rich curriculum. Established in 1989, the U of A Rome Center has been a haven for arts and architecture study, but recently the University expanded the curriculum to feature a variety of U of A core classes as well as upper level electives in Italian culture, language, art and history.

The U of A Rome Center is conveniently located in one of the most important palaces in Rome – Palazzo Taverna. Today, the buildings in the palazzo house many different activities from private residential apartments to banqueting halls, diplomatic residences and artist studios. Palazzo Taverna has a Baroque wing and an Empire wing -- each featuring frescoes from the turn of the 19th century by painter Coccetti. The U of A Rome Center is housed in the Empire wing of the Palazzo where the most important architects of the 20th century met to discuss their ideas.

It is in this prestigious setting that the U of A Rome Center offers two summer sessions. Each of these five-week terms closely aligns with Fayetteville's summer sessions. Faculty members from the Fayetteville campus join with Italian instructors who have extensive knowledge of Italian language, art, architecture, and culture. Students enroll in two U of A courses, for a total of six credit hours.

The U of A Rome Center offers an educational experience that replaces the traditional classroom with a didactic, hands-on approach. The 'Roman Razorbacks' use this ancient city as a laboratory to examine historical and contemporary Rome through numerous local site visits and museum tours. Students see the Colosseum, Vatican City and its Sistine Chapel as well as the works of Michelangelo, Caravaggio, Bernini, and Borromini which are scattered throughout the city.

Regional site visits make the program dynamic. Students take day trips to the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Villa Adriana, the home and governmental seat of 2nd century Roman Emperor Hadrian. Additionally, students visit Villa d'Este which is famous for its captivating fountains and gardens as well as for being the final resting place for

many of the ruins of Villa Adriana. Students also explore Villa Farnese in Caprarola and Villa Lante in Bagnaia, two magnificent Renaissance villas in the area. A weekend trip to Florence, the jewel of Renaissance Italy, is another unique highlight of this program.

"Classes were Monday through Thursday, and Friday to Sunday was always different. There were mandatory site trips, free weekends, and optional out of town trips. The teaching method was very different because we were able to go to the site that we studied. This rarity is what made the study abroad so special. My 'textbook' was not pages bound together. It was churches that were hundreds of years old, villas that belonged to important families, and important public architecture. Even our school, at Palazzo Taverna, has a rich history behind it. Being able to experience the architecture and then learn from our experience with it made learning not only fun, but also tangible," said one student who studied at the Rome Center in summer 2013.

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Students are housed in apartments which are located in traditional, well-established neighborhoods either within walking distance of the U of A Rome Center or conveniently located next to public transit routes for easy access to the Center.

This summer, students have the opportunity to take U of A courses like Basic Art Lecture, U.S. History, Italian Language, Art and Culture in Italy, Living in Rome – From Antiquity to Modern Life, Bookmaking in Italy, Ceramics, and Western European History....all from an Italian perspective and with Rome as a backdrop.



INTERNATIONAL *Service Learning*



International service learning is gaining increasing prominence in study abroad programs nationwide as institutions strive to prepare students for the diverse global workforce. The University of Arkansas is no stranger to this socially-beneficial approach to learning. The nationally recognized Tibetans in Exile Today project (known as the TEXT Program) has been taking U of A students to Tibetan refugee settlements in India since 2008 under the tutelage of faculty members Sidney Burriss and Geshe Dorjee, a Tibetan monk who is co-director of the program. Additionally, with the guidance of faculty leader Amy Farmer (Walton College of Business), the interdisciplinary Community Development in Belize program just finished its 7th year of service learning in Dangriga, Belize.

Projects in Belize have spanned the fields of agriculture, ecology, business, education, and health over the years. With 63 U of A student participants in the summer of 2013, it is the largest faculty-led study abroad program at the University. Building on the success of the Belize partnership, the Global Community Development program expanded to Mozambique. The interdisciplinary program recently wrapped up its second year working in this East African nation, led by faculty from agriculture and poultry science.

Service learning offers a holistic approach to education as students not only learn classroom theories and techniques, but also practice real-world applications and enrich their social and cultural competencies within diverse international

"TEXT is a unique program. You aren't just chasing after a grade. You aren't studying something just for personal benefit. You're helping to preserve a beautiful culture. That's worth every penny you scrape together to get there."

environments. Students on service learning programs experience personal, academic, and professional growth while addressing global community needs. During off-work hours, they enjoy everyday life and local cuisine with local

community members or excursions with faculty and peers. All of the U of A's service learning programs start with on-campus classes so that students can learn social, cultural, and historical backgrounds of the countries they will travel to as well as practical techniques for international community development. Bookwork primarily takes place in the classroom before departure so that time on the

ground can be spent with more hands-on experiences. Students involved in service learning also learn valuable life lessons on the ground about flexibility and adaptation in constantly changing and diverse environments that require students to problem solve and think on their feet.

While students improve personally from participation in service learning projects, the results of their work can be far-reaching for local communities as well, from the development of sustainable gardens and small business entrepreneurship in Belize, to new methods of poultry production and business management in Mozambique, to the cultural preservation of Tibetan refugees' rich histories of non-violence through oral history interviews in India. Though the programs may be called "short-term," U of A students are learning life-long skills and making long-term impacts across the globe.

Funding the **STUDY** **ABROAD** Experience

There are many resources available to help your student realize his/her dream to study in a foreign country.

CAN CURRENT SCHOLARSHIPS BE USED TO STUDY ABROAD?

In many cases, students may apply scholarships they normally receive in a given term towards an approved study abroad program in that same term. This includes scholarships like the Arkansas Academic Challenge Lottery Scholarship, Arkansas Governor's Distinguished, National Merit, U of A Chancellor's, U of A Silas Hunt, U of A Honors College Academy, and U of A Fellowships. If your student receives any of the following types of scholarships, encourage them to contact the scholarship's administrator to determine if it can be applied to study abroad:

- outside or hometown scholarships
- athletic scholarships
- U of A departmental scholarships

CAN FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID BE USED TO STUDY ABROAD?

Federal Financial Aid may be applied toward study abroad programs provided that the program is approved by the Office of Study Abroad & International Exchange, the student is enrolled in a full-time course load during the period abroad, and that the courses transfer to the University of Arkansas. Federal aid includes, but is not limited to, Pell Grants, SEOG Grants, Stafford Loans, and Perkins Loans. Do not rule out federal aid if you have previously been unsuccessful. Study abroad can increase your education costs, which may result in a financial aid award.

CAN TUITION DISCOUNTS BE USED TO STUDY ABROAD?

It depends. Tuition discounts (i.e. legacy scholarships or out-of-state tuition waivers) may only be applied to University of Arkansas administered programs – U of A Rome Center, U of A Exchange, and most U of A short-term faculty-led. Tuition discounts may not be used for external, or third-party, program providers.

WHAT ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS SHOULD STUDENTS KEEP IN MIND?

All colleges at the U of A have study abroad scholarships for eligible students. Additionally, the Honors College has a

substantial endowment to support study abroad through a competitive grant process.

Many of our students have received nationally competitive awards. To highlight a few:

- Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship – For students receiving a Federal Pell Grant. Learn more at www.iae.org/gilman.
- Boren Scholarships for International Study – For language study. Learn more at http://www.borenawards.org/boren_scholarship.
- Fund for International Service Learning – For students enrolled in an international service-learning program. Learn more at www.fisl.org.
- Whitaker International Scholarship Program – For Biomedical or Bioengineering majors. Learn more at www.whitaker.org.

FINAL TIPS...

1. Do an accurate cost comparison of study abroad programs by considering not only just the tuition or program fee, but also costs like local transportation, room and board, books, supplies, and personal expenses.
2. Students will never have a better opportunity to learn about the world than as an undergraduate at the University of Arkansas. Financial aid and scholarships can help make the difference. These funding resources become not only limited, but also highly competitive after graduation.
3. Often times, students find more scholarship opportunities tied to non-traditional locations – those countries outside of Western Europe and Australia. If your student is interested in other languages, studying a critical needs language abroad such as Mandarin or Arabic is also likely to yield more scholarship opportunities.
4. Planning ahead is key to a successful and productive study abroad experience. The U of A Office of Study Abroad is ready to assist students in making it happen.

Upcoming Events:

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
<i>Study Abroad Fair</i>	September 24 th	10 am - 2 pm	Arkansas Union International Connections Lounge
<i>Hogs Abroad 101</i>	Every Tuesday & Wednesday throughout the semester	4 pm - 5 pm	J.B. Hunt 207 - Foreign Language Lab
<i>Gilman Scholarship Info Session</i>	October 1 st	4 pm - 5 pm	J.B. Hunt 207 - Foreign Language Lab



For more information, visit studyabroad.uark.edu or call (479) 575-7582.

"There is something great about not knowing what is in store. Not having any ideas or expectations about what your trip will hold. Having expectations for something that should be so spontaneous is just asking for disappointment. My biggest piece of advice is to let go of any and all preconceived ideas you have before traveling."

Christa Page
U of A Rome Center
Summer 2013



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