

# Study Abroad Connections

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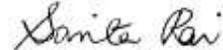
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## Message from the Director

Dear UHM Faculty and Students,

The Study Abroad Center extends a warm welcome to the Mānoa campus at the start of the 2019-2020 academic year! This edition of Study Abroad Connections features insightful perspectives from Spring and Summer 2019 study abroad alumni. In the first piece, Hikaru Shinagawa writes about his experience on the Spring 2019 Semester in London program, studying at the University of Roehampton. Crossing the Atlantic to South America, Economics major Coby Chock provides a detailed description of day-to-day life in Mendoza, Argentina. Through intensive Spanish language study at the Universidad Nacional de Cuyo this summer, Coby managed to speed up requirements for his Spanish Certificate. I hope that you enjoy the articles that Hikaru and Coby have contributed to Study Abroad Connections. Best wishes for a successful year.

Sincerely,



Sarita Rai

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## London, England: a one-on-one interview

**Hikaru Shinagawa**  
**Liberal Arts, English and Japanese Major**  
**London, England, Spring 2019**

*What was your goal/objective for studying abroad in general, and in London?*

My goal was to improve my creative writing skills as well as experience the learning environment of the United Kingdom.

*Did you experience culture shock? How did the Study Abroad Center's pre-departure Orientation sessions help prepare you for your semester abroad in London?*

The Study Abroad Center's orientation sessions did prepare me in a number of important ways. In addition to providing vital information that allowed me to adjust better to life in the UK, it also gave me an important glance as to what I should expect when I am in London. I feel that this significantly helped me deal with any culture shock I should experience.

*What was the most memorable experience you had in London?*

The most memorable experience I had during my study abroad trip has to be a tie between two events. The first was meeting my girlfriend, who lives in the UK but not in London. The second is the opportunity to attend VidCon London, which was not only a fun event but also allowed me to establish new connections that hopefully will benefit me in the future as a YouTube creator.

*"I would definitely recommend studying abroad, anywhere. It is an experience that greatly enhances your worldview and helps round you as an individual!"*

*“It has cemented me onto a path I was considering taking before. I have applied for and been accepted into the University of Roehampton for a postgraduate program. I will be returning to London in September to earn a Master’s in Creative Writing.”*

*What did you appreciate most about this study abroad experience? (earning UHM credits, learning host country culture/language through homestay, eating authentic host country cuisine, etc.)*

What I appreciate the most was the opportunity to experience a completely different education system from that of the United States. In the United Kingdom, the entire class is a build-up to a small number of final assignments that determine your final grade.

*How has this semester abroad in London changed you, your career choice, etc.?*

It has cemented me onto a path I was considering taking before. I have applied for and been accepted into the University of Roehampton for a postgraduate program. I will be returning to London in September to earn a Master’s in Creative Writing.

*What advice would you give to prospective students interested in studying abroad, and particularly in London? In other words, would you recommend study abroad to other students and why?*

I would definitely recommend studying abroad, anywhere. It is an experience that greatly enhances your world view and helps round you as an individual.

For London, do be sure to listen closely to the orientation that Roehampton provides. It provides very important information that you need to know.



## Mendoza, Argentina

**Coby Chock**  
**Economics Major**  
**Mendoza, Argentina: Summer 2019**

The cultural differences between my host family and my own were very noticeable yet somewhat subtle. My host family consisted of a mother, brother (middle aged), and grandmother, which is very different from the families that I am used to being around in Hawaii as none of the family members were currently with their significant other. While my host mother's and grandmother's significant other passed away, my host brother was recently divorced and as it turns out, divorce is very common in Argentina in general. Many of the family units in Hawaii are complete with a mother, father, children, and other family members being in one house, however in Argentina, it is more common to see divorced or single people because of their culture. In addition to that, the host family ate very differently than I am used to as they only ate two complete meals per day. In the mornings, they would have some carbohydrates such as bread or crackers, then for lunch and dinner, the whole family would sit down together and eat a large meal. In addition to that, they also ate every meal later than in my home in Hawaii. They ate breakfast when they woke up, lunch at around 2, and dinner at around 9. In recognition of this, I just went with the flow and ate snacks that they offered and got my body used to eating in the pattern that they did.

Communication was difficult at first because I was not used to speaking in Spanish and never had to rely on speaking before this trip. Through my time there, I was forced to speak Spanish in school, in my home, in stores, and in restaurants. At first this was scary and difficult, however after having to do it daily, it became easier and normal. To overcome the challenges, I really had to just speak and not worry about my shortcomings. That eventually led to me being able to communicate better with everyone.



I was open to the different aspects of culture going into this study abroad trip and looked up various aspects of the culture and somewhat had an idea of what I was going to be heading into before I arrived. I learned about a few of the different political figures who are running for office and the different beliefs about the candidates. I also learned about the family and romantic structure that existed in Argentina where many families were separated, and public displays of affection were common in parks/plazas.

I do consider myself to be more globally aware following my trip to Argentina as I have learned all about people who live in a completely different part of the world. It helped me to see what else is going on in the world and made me realize that the issues that we face here in America are so much more insignificant than we make it seem. I plan on studying abroad in Sevilla next year, and I hope that I can continue to become aware of different peoples of the world.



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uhmstudyabroad

*Dare to Discover,  
Dare to Learn, and  
Dare to Understand*

## Fall 2019 Calendar at a Glance

**Study Abroad Fair**  
**Wed., September 11**  
9:00am - 2:00pm  
Campus Center Mall

**Informational Meetings**  
**(Spring 2020)**  
Visit website for details

**9th Annual Teaching & Researching Around the World**  
**Thurs., September 19**  
**11:00am – 1:00pm**  
ITC 105A

**Spring 2020 in Kobe, Japan**  
**Application Deadline**  
**Tues., October 1**

**Spring 2020 Application**  
**Deadline**  
**Tues., October 15**

**Resident Director**  
**Summer 2020 Application**  
**Deadline**  
**Fri., October 4**

**Resident Director**  
**Fall 2020/Spring 2021/**  
**Academic Year**  
**Programs Application**  
**Deadline**

**Mon., November 4**

**Faculty-Sponsored**  
**Study Tours (FaSST)**  
**Info. Session**

**Fri., October 18**  
11:30am – 12:30pm  
Moore 155A

**Informational Meetings**  
**(AY Japan 2020-21)**  
**February 2020**  
Check website for details

## Meet the next Resident Directors

### Spring 2020

#### Kōbe, Japan

**Linda Oshita** [lindao@hawaii.edu](mailto:lindao@hawaii.edu)

*Special Education*

SPED 446 (W): Seminar in Special Education: Barrier-Free Japan – Field Experience

#### London, England

**Kathy Ferguson** [kferguso@hawaii.edu](mailto:kferguso@hawaii.edu)

*Political Science and Women's Studies*

WS 151 (W) Introduction to Women's Studies

WS 384 (W+E): Women and Politics

#### Paris, France

**Jon Goldberg-Hiller** [hiller@hawaii.edu](mailto:hiller@hawaii.edu)

*Political Science*

POLS 333 (W): Advanced Topics in Global Politics

POLS 366: Advanced Topics in Theory, Media and Method

#### Florence, Italy

**Judith Kellogg** [jkellogg@hawaii.edu](mailto:jkellogg@hawaii.edu)

*English (retired)*

ENG 271 (W): The Quest in Western Literature

ENG 321 (W): Backgrounds of Western Literature: The Construction of Culture through Stories

#### Seville, Spain

**Benito Quintana** [benitoq@hawaii.edu](mailto:benitoq@hawaii.edu)

*LLEA-Spanish*

LAIS 360C (O): Studies in Culture: Iberia Peninsula – Andalucía Edition

SPAN 361: Spanish Literature I – Andalucía