

Study Abroad Connections

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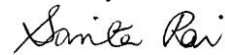
Message from the Director

Welcome all UHM faculty and students to a new academic year at Mānoa! The Study Abroad Center is continuously striving to expand the curricula offered abroad.

The Study Abroad experience is not only for students; faculty also stand to benefit from being a Resident Director. Fall is also the time when the Study Abroad Center accepts faculty Resident Director applications for the Summer 2019, Fall 2019, and Spring 2020 programs. The deadline to apply to be a faculty Resident Director in Summer 2019 is October 5, 2018; the deadline for Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 programs is November 5, 2018.

The Study Abroad Center can also facilitate Independent, Self-Designed Faculty-Led Study Tours for faculty members who wish to lead students independently.

Sincerely,



Sarita Rai

New Experiences and Growth through Study Abroad

Ashley Doubledee
Double Major in Marketing and Korean
Independent Seoul, South Korea, Spring 2018

I have been interested in Korea and Korean culture since high school. However, my first chance to experience it was in my freshman year of college, where I got to take Korean for the first time. I loved it and decided to add Korean as a major because of my growing interest in the subject. Therefore, getting to go to Korea was a huge dream of mine. Once I applied to Yonsei University through the independent study option at Study Abroad and was accepted, my true journey began.

My goal of studying abroad was to learn more about Korea and how the people live their daily lives. I believe that there is only so much you can learn about a country from the comfort of your own home. I wanted to see if this was a place that I could potentially thrive in when I graduate college for future career opportunities. As an International Business, Marketing and Korean major, studying abroad was a huge stepping stone for me in deciding what I want to do with my future. And while there, I learned many things about both myself and the world around me.

It started with something small. While I didn't really experience culture shock per say, the biggest difference I experienced was that people would stare at me. While I knew I was a foreigner and stood out from the majority of the people there, it was very weird to feel that many people's eyes on me simply because I looked different. I had studied abroad previously in Ireland, so I knew what to expect from going to a new place and how to deal with it. However, in Ireland, I look very similar to the majority of the people there, so it took some getting used to standing out in Seoul. On top of this, another challenge I faced was my lack of complete knowledge of the Korean language. While I knew some Korean, it was nowhere near enough to be able to communicate fluently, which was difficult and isolating. However, these feelings disappeared after I had made some friends and joined a few



clubs on campus, as I felt like I had my own little place in the city. My advice to anyone experiencing this would be to take a step out of their comfort zone and do things where they will meet new people at the beginning of the semester and make an effort to make friends.

The entire experience of going to Korea is one that I can keep in my mind forever. However, if I had to pick one memory, it would be going to karaoke, or noraebang as it's called in Korean, with my entire friend group. I made four really close friends while there, but we all had very different class schedules so it was hard for us to have time together. However, this was one of the few times that we all had free time, and it was probably the most fun that I have ever had. We all got to belt out our favorite Korean songs, songs that we normally wouldn't be able to sing at karaoke in the United States. It was really enjoyable and a memory I will cherish forever.

I believe that every study abroad has challenges, but that is one of the great things about it. Facing situations that you never have before allows you to grow and learn more about who you are as a person and how you react to things. Looking back on my time in Korea, I can definitely say that I miss Seoul. I miss the busy streets and the sound of a language that I love learning, and the fashion, culture, makeup and history that is unique to Korea. I know that I have learned so much and I will return eventually.

My last piece of advice is to remember to keep an open mind. This experience taught me that it is okay to feel out of place, to be the odd one out in a crowd, because at the end of the day, it's what helps inspire others to do the same thing. I hope that this inspires someone to go to Korea or take a leap and go to a new place that they have never been to before, because you can only grow from the experience.



Shanghai

Marcus Cruz Ortiz
Dual Master's in Architecture
FaSST GT6 - China, Spring 2018

As many will state, studying abroad is a life-changing, worthwhile experience, and my voice can now add further confirmation to this from my experiences in China this past year. There is an underappreciated value of China as a study abroad destination that I would like to break and reinterpret for future potential students considering China, and Asia in general, as a place to learn and experience while abroad.

Majoring in architecture here at UH and being able to study at Tongji University for a Dual Master's Degree was a tremendous opportunity within a well-respected international architecture school. I focused on absorbing the built environment and physical aspects of my surroundings just as much as I did on the culture, people and food!

There are distinct contrasts between China and America, and of course, China and Hawai'i. I was nervous upon entering the country without any prior knowledge of the language or culture, and was completely caught off-guard to find some of the friendliest, warm-hearted people I have ever met; a reminder of the ever-present aloha spirit. Just as in Hawai'i, locals in China were more than willing to help if I asked for directions or food recommendations. Mandarin is a difficult language to learn in my experience, but body language and friendliness are universal for basic understanding. Shanghai is known for being an international city, though, and there are many locals who are fluent in English, and many signs are in English!

Throughout my time here, there have been plenty of instances I will always cherish in China and will carry with me for the rest of my life. Waking up to catch the sunrise at the Bund has been one of my favorite moments in Shanghai, not only because of the incredible scenery laid out by the historic and modern architecture intertwined on the riverbank, but also because of the people I got to share that scenery with; other international students wanting to learn more about the world and getting engulfed in this rich culture that has lasted throughout dynasties and cultural revolutions.



The biggest takeaway for me being in China, for studying abroad, is the amount of self-growth and self-awareness I've experienced. My overall self-concept, self-esteem, personal values, and ambitions were all laid out, tested, and have grown tremendously from this experience. Being in an unfamiliar environment, willingly accepting and adapting to new things, is something worth experiencing and learning from. I think studying abroad anywhere in the world will give someone this opportunity, and China provides its own unique twist for the fish-out-of-water experience!



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uhmstudyabroad

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

Fall 2018 Calendar at a Glance

Study Abroad Fair
Wednesday, Sep. 19
9:00am - 2:00pm
Campus Center Mall

8th Annual Teaching & Researching Around the World
Friday, Sep. 14
11:00am-1:00pm
ITC 105A

Resident Director Summer 2019 Application Deadline
Friday, Oct. 5

Resident Director Fall 2019/Spring 2020/ Academic Year Programs Application Deadline
Monday, Nov. 5

Student Spring 2019 Application Deadline
Monday, Oct. 1 (Kōbe only)
Monday, Oct. 15 (all others)

Faculty-Sponsored Study Tours (FaSST) Informational Session
Visit website for details

Spring 2019 Program Informational Meetings
Visit website for details

Meet the next Resident Directors

Spring 2019

LONDON, ENGLAND

David Beilman beilman@hawaii.edu

Geography

GEOG 302: Global Environmental Issues "Climate Change – London"

GEOG 411: Past Global Change and the Human Era

PARIS, FRANCE

Natalie Ségeral nsegeral@hawaii.edu

Languages and Literatures of Europe and the Americas—French

LLEA 364/ FR 312 (W/O): Survey of Francophone Civilizations

WS 418/FR491B (E/O): Women and Film/Gendering History in the Francophone World

FLORENCE, ITALY

Sandra Schwartz saunderas@hawaii.edu

History

HIST 296: Texts and Contexts in World History

HIST 343 (W, O): Reacting to the Past

MACHIDA, JAPAN

Miriam Sharma sharma@hawaii.edu

Asian Studies (retired)

ASAN 463 (W): Gender Issues in Asia-Focus on Japan

ASAN 491J: Topics in Asian Studies-Multicultural Japan

SEVILLE, SPAIN

Elizabeth Davidson edavidso@hawaii.edu

Shidler College of Business, Information Technology Management

ITM 321 (W): Project Management

BUS 367I: Doing Business in the European Union – Spain Focus