

Study Abroad Connections

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Aloha in Japan	2
A Day in the Bush	3
FALL 2021 Calendar at a Glance	4
Meet the Resident Directors for Spring 2022	4

Message from the Director

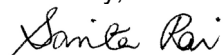
Dear UHM Faculty and Students,

I would like to welcome you to our Fall 2021 Semester Abroad

Our programs abroad are situated to provide in-person instruction. This has been our commitment to our faculty and students given the circumstances.

Toward that end then, UH Manoa Study Abroad Center operated and offered and continues to offer its programs throughout the pandemic with all of our partner institutions abroad. We have continued to endure, adapt with resilience and build even stronger relationships with our partners - not losing sight of health, safety and security for both our faculty and students. We onward and forward.

Sincerely,



Sarita Rai

Aloha in Japan

Linda Oshita

Resident Director

Fall 2019 – Spring 2020 Academic Year in Japan

The Year in Japan (YiJ) Program kicked off in September 2019 full of promise and anticipation of great experiences yet to come. The students, from UHM, mainland US, and four other countries, quickly settled into their new, exciting lives as *ryuugakusei* (international students) at Konan University in Kobe, Japan. The weeks and months of Fall 2019 quickly passed. Many students told me they were living their best lives. And before we knew it, the Spring 2020 semester had arrived, and as we happily welcomed more students to the Kobe *ryuugakusei* family, we had no idea what was in store for us and the rest of the world.

As the pandemic unfolded in Japan, the *ryuugakusei* found their world was starting to narrow. Field trips were modified or cancelled completely. Leisure activities, such as sitting shoulder to shoulder with friends in a crowded *izakaya* and singing *karaoke* proved to be dangerous. Spring cherry blossom festivals were cancelled. Universities began calling their students home. Every week, the *ryuugakusei* family became smaller and smaller as their classmates headed home. Classes moved online. And eventually, the local operation of the YiJ program was called off. The remaining students headed home and finished the program virtually from their home countries. Our farewell party was held on Zoom with students logging in from five different time zones around the world. Although it was wonderful to see everyone healthy and safe, it was not the ending anyone wanted.

From an RD's perspective, it was heartbreaking to watch as the pandemic derailed the hopes and dreams of the *ryuugakusei*. However, in the midst of a very dark and stressful time, the UHM students really demonstrated the spirit of aloha. Although they each had their own worries and troubles, they helped their friends pack up and head home. They supported each other. They made personal sacrifices for the health

and safety of their community. And although no one wanted to go home, when they left, they thanked their sensei, the international center staff, their host families, and me. Even though they were dealing with crushing disappointment, they were able to set that aside and express their appreciation and gratitude for what they did receive. Their actions left a huge impression on the Konan University faculty, staff, and me.

The Study Abroad experience transforms students. They learn a lot about their host culture and the world through a different lens. They also learn a lot about themselves as they adapt, grow, and change for the better in this new environment. Students learn their limits are fewer than they thought, and that their capabilities are far greater than could have imagined. But the most amazing part is that as much as students grow and change, they keep their core values intact. They become better versions of themselves. The UHM students, through their actions, demonstrated that even in the worst of times, it is possible, necessary even, to live aloha. I was never prouder to be a member of the UHM community.



Study Abroad Connections

A Day in the Bush

Haley Lambert

Animal Science Major

FaSST Hoedspruit, South Africa: Summer 2021

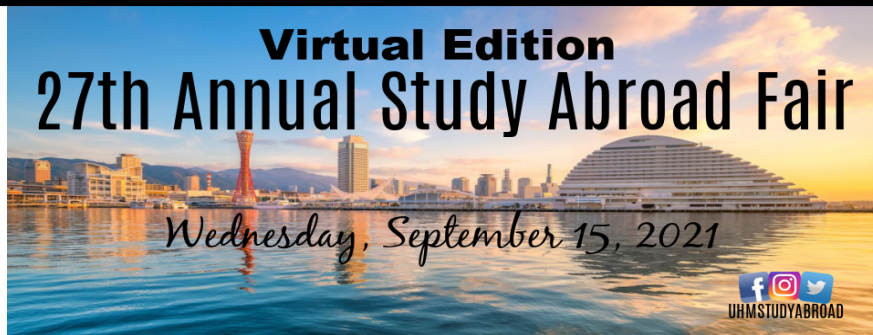
As golden light begins to paint a dark chalet, the yellow-billed hornbills and starlings start to sing their morning songs. It's a brisk day at 6:30 AM before the sun has fully risen and warmed up the air. I get out of bed quietly, careful not to wake my roommates as I make my way to the outdoor bathroom. Watching the sunrise as I complete my morning routine feels so enriching to my spirit and sets the tone for the day. I head back to my room to find my colleagues awake and I get dressed with the idea of thick acacia thorns in my mind. I choose khaki cargo pants with enough pockets to carry my chapstick, phone, pens, and a flashlight. I put on a light green shirt, a hat and thick soled shoes. My bag is packed with a notebook, my camera, some snacks, and WATER!

We all meet under the newly built viewing deck for some coffee and breakfast peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. We are divided into groups and get into our respective Land Rovers to head into the field. Today we are helping Professor Mark Wright research the effects of bee stress pheromones on elephant deferral. There are three hides that we are observing today: Rosie's Pan, Charlie's Hide and Thomas Dam. The morning is quiet...nothing but a herd of impalas and a few zebras for the first few hours. As the day goes on, there are no signs of elephants and my partner and I grow tired. Just as we are about to call it a day, a large grey weathered beast appears. And then another! And another! Until there are 12 elephants right in front of us; a whole breeding herd with mothers, aunts, sisters, and babies. We sat there as quietly as the elephants approached us. Our cameras are rolling, catching footage of the most incredible waterpark show. The herd drinks and cools off by spraying itself with a trunk full of water. The matriarch of the herd approaches our sock containing the bee pheromone that was carefully placed near the dam. The matriarch raises her trunk to get a better idea before giving a concerned trumpet. The rest of the elephants hear her and begin to leave in a single file line, still as quiet as they arrived. Those 20 minutes felt like an hour in the presence of such magnificent creatures that move with an unlikely grace for their size. We pack up our things and get back into the Land Rover.

We arrive back to camp where we have some down time to relax and go through our footage. A cold shower feels good in the afternoon sunlight and doesn't bother me so much anymore. A fire is started so by the time dinner is prepped the coals are the perfect temperature. I grab myself a cold ginger ale and head up to the deck to watch the sunset. I join some of my colleagues in chairs and we swap stories about our day in the field. Each one just as epic as the last.



.....





University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Study Abroad Center
1890 East West Road
Moore Hall, Room 115
Honolulu, HI 96822

Phone (808) 956-5143
(808) 956-6958
Fax (808) 956 9319
Web studyabroad.hawaii.edu



uhmstudyabroad

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

Fall 2020 Calendar at a Glance

Virtual Study Abroad Fair
Wed., September 15
8:45am - 2:00pm

**Informational Meetings
(Spring 2022)**

Visit website for details

**Is Study Abroad in Your
Research Plans?
Strengthen Your Study
Abroad Resident Director
Application (Virtual)**
Fri., September 10

**Spring 2022 in Kobe, Japan
Application Deadline**
Fri., October 1

**Spring 2022 Application
Deadline**
Fri., October 15

**Resident Director
Summer 2022 Application
Deadline**
Tues., October 5

**Resident Director
Fall 2022/Spring 2023/
Academic Year
Programs Application
Deadline**

Fri., November 5

**Informational Meetings
(AY Japan 2022-23)
February 2022**

Check website for details

Meet the next Resident Directors

Spring 2022

Machida, Japan

Lonny Carlile lonny@hawaii.edu

Asian Studies

ASAN 320J: Asian Nation Studies: Japan

ASAN 462: Contested Issues in Contemporary Japan

London, England

Mary Mostafanezhad mostafan@hawaii.edu

Dept. of Geography

GEOG 102: World Regional Geography

GEOG 425: Geographies of Popular Culture

Paris, France

Nandini Chandra nc8@hawaii.edu

Dept. of English

ENG 381: Popular Literature: French Enlightenment and Its Others

ENG 494: The Essay-Films Recycling of "Waste": Lessons from the Left Bank

Florence, Italy

Reed Dasenbrock rdasenbr@hawaii.edu

Dept. of English

ENG 321: The Cradle of the Renaissance: Florence in Literature, Art and Architecture
or ART 389: Study Abroad--Art History (Backgrounds of European Literature)

LLEA 337: Italian Literature in Translation: Dante Alighieri and Divine Comedy