

Study Abroad Connections

LOCATION - TIME



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Message from the Director

I am writing this with a smile - because after a three year hiatus - we are having our in-person annual study abroad fair again at the campus center this Friday September 8, from 9 am to 2 pm. We will showcase all of our Study Abroad Programs with faculty members and student alumni participating. It will be an event to behold - so please attend.

We are continuing on with our virtual fair on September 13 from 8:30 am to 4:40 pm with all of our international partners. Professor Reece Jones, Geography Department will open the virtual fair with his keynote speech regarding his research and teaching abroad. Please join us.

This newsletter - documents experiences from study abroad students as well as chronicles research by faculty resident directors. Enjoy.

- Sarita Rai, Director, UHM Study Abroad Center

Student Spotlight

Kiersty McKee is a former Study Abroad Student and current Mānoa Peer Advisor at the Study Abroad Center. She shares about her time abroad as well as her time as a Peer Advisor.

Aloha Study Abroad 'ohana! My name is Kiersty McKee and I am one of the Mānoa Peer Advisors here at the UHM Study Abroad Center. I am a senior B.S. Biology major and I plan on graduating in Fall 2023. I studied abroad in Dublin, Ireland in Summer 2021 to complete Organic Chemistry I and II for my major and Pharmacy school prerequisites.

To say that studying abroad changed my life is a sheer understatement. I was born and raised on O'ahu and wanted to see what it was like to be away from home for an extended period of time. Being that I stayed home for college, the idea of going abroad was daunting yet exciting.



Applying to the program was fairly easy, especially with help from the advisors in appointments and the mandatory pre-departure meetings. I think meeting at least once with an advisor prior to applying is extremely important in ensuring that you have the best chance of being accepted. While the application is fairly straightforward, it is helpful to have someone explain the program, its features, and the application to you. The pre-departure meetings were also helpful in terms of preparation and making connections. I think it is extremely important to make positive connections with the other students who will be abroad with you. They may become your lifelong friends!



Student Spotlight

Kiersty McKee is a former Study Abroad Student and current Mānoa Peer Advisor at the Study Abroad Center. She shares about her time abroad as well as her time as a Peer Advisor.

When I was finally headed to Ireland, I was excited yet nervous. Flying across the country from Hawai'i to California to New Jersey to Ireland was definitely a first for me. Luckily, I was able to trek through the various airports with the other students on my program. When we arrived in Ireland, it felt like a completely different world. From chilly summer weather to accents, it was a big but necessary change in scenery for me. While I was there, I felt like I grew as a person. I was put into a new environment away from home in an academically challenging setting. I loved my lectures and labs due to the professor's sheer ability to cater to our needs as students. Throughout the courses, I felt successful as a result of the connections my peers and I made with the professors and teaching assistants. I loved traveling around the country, too! Whether it was a tour bus excursion to a distant historical landmark or a bus ride to the city to shop, I enjoyed every second of my adventures with my friends. I reminisce on my time in Ireland quite often and hope to go back as soon as possible!



After returning from my time abroad, I chose to volunteer at various fairs and meetings to speak about my experiences. I enjoyed sharing and connecting with other students which led the Study Abroad advisors to encourage me to apply to become a Peer Advisor. As a peer advisor, I have the opportunity to help other prospective students achieve their goal of studying abroad in locations all over the world. I love being able to share my experiences with them on a daily basis while also sending them off to experience our programs and locations on their own. It has been an extremely rewarding experience in terms of my personal, academic, and professional growth. Not only have I met and interacted with so many people, but the organizational and interpersonal skills I have developed are priceless to me. I am extremely grateful for the time I have spent with the Study Abroad center and will definitely be taking my experiences along with me to the next step in my academic journey. Mahalo nui Study Abroad Center!

Letter from a Resident Director

Professor Brook Chapman De Sousa was a Resident Director for the London, England program in Spring 2023. She shares about her experiences abroad.

ROLE AS AN RD

Being the RD and helping facilitate the goals of the program was a highly rewarding experience. I tried to balance my involvement and availability with encouraging their independence. I stayed involved by communicating frequently with the students via WhatsApp, weekly journaling and reflections, facilitating outings and opportunities to volunteer, joining the UR events, and meeting students for individual check-ins over coffee. We had a celebration at the Guest Flat at the end of the term. Having our weekly UHM classes helped our group to build community, stay connected with one another, and jointly reflect on our experiences. These discussions focused in particular on the goals of gaining deeper knowledge and understanding of other cultures and their environments and acquiring increased respect and tolerance of differences.

I would start each session with a reflection question. We wrote about our experiences from the past week and reflected on our learning. Afterwards, we discussed our entries in small groups, allowing me to ask some guiding questions. Debriefing like this helped students gain insights and process the events of the past week. They articulated their changing understanding of culture. For example, in her final paper for our class, one student wrote, “I have added to my multicultural toolkit. In addition, I have grown in my understanding of culture. Culture is so much more than traditions and beliefs. It can be seen in our day-to-day lives, from how we interact with others to what can be viewed as superstitions. I started this journey with little expectations of what I may encounter, yet I leave with a plethora of memories to look back on. The people I have met and the adventures I have been on continuously shape how I view the world and where I belong in it.”



Letters from a Resident Director

Professor Brook Chapman De Sousa was a Resident Director for the London, England program in Spring 2023.

PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL BENEFITS

The UR (University of Roehampton) School of Education plays a significant role in teacher training in the UK. Additionally, faculty at UR conducts research in similar areas to what I am working on at UHM. I was able to meet with scholars, such as Dr. Virginia Lamb from the Department of Psychology. Dr. Lamb came to my Educational Psychology and Multicultural Education classes to share about her projects and research. We plan to stay in touch and possibly collaborate with her in the future. Additionally, we are working on increasing the recruitment and retention of diverse teacher candidates to the College of Education. I was able to meet with the Dean and Associate Dean of the UR School of Education to talk with them about their recruitment and retention strategies.



Living and teaching on campus freed up significant amounts of time for me to work on my writing and scholarship. I was so grateful for that time and was able to submit three articles for publication. I also worked on three conference proposals that I am submitting this July. I continued my academic advising at UHM and had one PhD student and three Master's Degree students graduate. I also served on three PhD committees. Lastly, I continued my work on creating instructional videos for teacher candidates. It felt like a very productive semester.

On a personal level, my time in London with my daughters was wonderful. My daughters got to experience life and school in a new culture. We made lifelong friends and experiencing British birthday and coronation parties was a highlight of our trip. Although we were living in such a massive city, it actually felt like our lives slowed down and we got to spend more quality time together, which was priceless.

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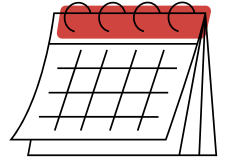
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uhmstudyabroad

Fall 2023 Calendar



FOR STUDENTS

FRI, Sep 8: Study Abroad Fair – Campus Center
Spring 2024 Kobe, Japan Application Due

WED, Sep 13: Study Abroad Fair – Virtual

THU, Sep 14 – MON, Oct 2: Informational Meetings

[Please check SAC Website for updates regarding the fair and informational meetings]

MON, Oct 16: Spring 2024 Application Due

FOR RESIDENT DIRECTORS

THU, Oct 5: Summer 2024 RD Application Due

THU, Nov 2: Fall 2024/Spring 2025 RD Application Due

29th Annual Study Abroad Fair

Come learn about your options abroad! Past participants of our study abroad programs will be present to talk about their experiences.

IN-PERSON

Friday, September 8th, 2023
9 AM – 2 PM at Campus Center

VIRTUAL

Wednesday, September 13th, 2023

[Click here for more Info!](#)

<https://go.hawaii.edu/UzX>



UHMSTUDYABROAD



DONATE TODAY!

STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Your donation will contribute toward funding students on their Study Abroad journey. Mahalo nui.



[CLICK HERE](#)

Spring 2024 Resident Directors

LONDON, ENGLAND

Jonna Eagle (jonnae@hawaii.edu)

American Studies

1. AMST 340 (WI + ETH + DH): War and Media
2. AMST 490D (WI + OC): Cinema and the City

PARIS, FRANCE

Myungji Yang (myang4@hawaii.edu)

Sociology

1. SOC 100 (DS): Introduction to Sociology
2. SOC 316 (WI): Survey of Social Change

FLORENCE, ITALY

Jesse Knutson (jknutson@hawaii.edu)

Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures

1. IP 366 (WI + DL): Literatures of Ancient India
2. IP 300 (WI + DL): History of Early India

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Frank Zelko (fzelko@hawaii.edu)

History

1. HIST 296 (WI + DH): Australian Environmental History
2. HIST 451E (OC + DH): The Lucky Country – The Construction of Australian Identity

SEVILLE, SPAIN

Daphne Desser (desser@hawaii.edu)

English

1. ENG 271 (WI + DL): Film and Literature of the Holocaust
2. ENG 311 (WI + DA): Autobiographical Writing – Travel Writing

MACHIDA, JAPAN

George Chun Han Wang (wangch@hawaii.edu)

Creative Media

1. ACM 384: Study Abroad The Life and Films of Akira Kurosawa
2. ACM 210 (DA): Intro to Cinematic Digital Production – Smartphone Filmmaking

