

Study Abroad Connections

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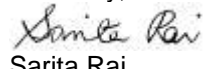
Message from the Director

Aloha and Welcome to the Spring 2016 issue of Study Abroad Connections. Studying abroad may seem like an expensive and out-of-reach goal to many students. In this issue, Spring 2016 Seville participant Catherine puts that assumption to rest and shares her not-so-secret secrets to securing scholarships for studying abroad!

Also in this issue, Mechanical Engineering major Ileana shares her study (and internship) abroad experience in Lille, France. She wrote more about it on the *Engineers' Council at the University of Hawaii* website <http://ecuh.org/studying-abroad-in-engineering/>

Please note the Study Abroad application deadlines are around the corner. Students who wish to study abroad this Summer must submit their applications to the Study Abroad Center by **Monday, February 1, 2016**. See [Calendar at a Glance](#) on page 4 for dates!

Sincerely,



Sarita Rai

Experiencing the Thrill in Lille

Ileana Argyris
Mechanical Engineering
Lille, Summer 2015

Choosing to study abroad in Lille was an easy decision. The opportunity to complete an internship in a different country while completing coursework towards my degree was too good to pass up. My original goal was to finish an internship and learn about renewable energies, but I came back to Hawaii with much more than that. The moment I arrived in Belgium, I experienced what it was like to be in a country where English wasn't the dominant language. I stumbled through the French language for two months, but I can proudly say that I was able to survive two months in France with the limited French that I knew. I wasn't completely lost, thanks to the Study Abroad Center's pre-departure Orientation, which also ensured that I didn't make any faux-pas. It's amazing how quickly you learn the language when you're exposed to it everyday. The thing that shocked me the most was how serious French people are about their lunch. Lunch is a one to two hour event that is never interrupted. For anything. In France, everyone takes lunch at the same time and only the restaurants are open during lunch. Everything else is closed.

The first month of my study abroad I spent at the Lille Catholic University. I took French classes, a Renewable Energy course and a course on Intercultural Communication. This program was designed for English speakers, so all of the classes are taught in English. One of the best parts about studying abroad in Europe is the close proximity to different countries. A trip to Brussels from Lille only takes 30 minutes and London is an hour and a half train ride away. I spent a few weekends in Belgium and some of my friends went to the Netherlands and England on our weekends.

The second month I split between two internships. The first internship lasted a week. I job shadowed an engineering student who worked for a company called Apave. Apave is one of the oldest engineering companies in France and they participate in a wide range of activities, from human resources to ensuring environmental safety. I worked as an electrical safety inspector. My colleague and I tested the conformance to electrical codes in various commercial buildings in Lille. We tested nurseries, elementary schools, town halls and police stations. My second internship was with another student and lasted three weeks. I worked at the Society Joseph Huwer, a company that fabricates sanitation vehicles. I was responsible for creating solidworks models of the truck attachments. Unfortunately, the box that I modeled was fabricated the day after I left the company. The company cultures differed greatly between the two companies I worked for. One was an office job while the other was more mobile. In the office, I interacted with three or four people while the mobile job was limited to just my colleague and the clients we met while testing buildings. In the office job, I had to greet every person in the office before settling down to work, and say goodbye to them all before leaving.

All in all, studying abroad was an amazing experience and if given the opportunity, I would *definitely* do it again.



*Top: Ileana and her Renewable Energies classmates and instructor; Right: Lunch at La Catho;
Bottom: Trip to the Parliamentarium in Brussels!*

Summer 2016 Application Deadline: February 1, 2016

For more information, please visit: <http://www.studyabroad.org/programs/summer/lille-france/>

Some (Not-So-Secret) Secrets to Securing Scholarships for Studying Abroad

Catherine Gardiner
Second Language Studies, Minor in Spanish
Seville, Spain, Spring 2016

Is money the only thing keeping you from studying abroad? That's what initially hindered me from even dreaming about studying in Spain. Without a steady income, there was no way I could afford a European adventure on top of my tuition and other living expenses. But I decided to indulge and attend an information session, anyway. What the heck? Window shopping is always free, right? In that initial meeting, as the study abroad counselors explained the expenses related to studying abroad, I realized just how attainable an adventure like this really is. To spend a semester studying in Shanghai, China, for example, is \$19,543 cheaper than studying at UHM. **[Please visit website www.studyabroad.org/cost-comparison-fall-2015/ for cost comparison.]**

Had it not been for the informational meetings and encouragement from the study abroad advisors, I would not have applied to study abroad in Spain for the Spring and Summer 2016 terms. Furthermore, I would not have searched for and secured the scholarships which are covering nearly all my travel expenses. As I have sought numerous scholarships, there are a few (not-so-secret) secrets that have helped me to obtain a surplus of awards. Here are the highlights:

1) Money doesn't grow on trees. You've got to work for it.

Your parents were right. You have to honestly work to earn a pretty penny—even (if not, especially) scholarship money. Reading the list of requirements of a scholarship application might make you cringe at the amount of work involved: application forms, essays, recommendation letters, oh my! But think about it: even if you put in ten hours into applying for a \$1000 scholarship and you win, that's \$100 an hour. That's about what an orthodontist or underwater welder make per hour. Plus scholarship money is untaxed income. So roll up your sleeves and work to make your application and essay really shine.

2) Write an Essay that's Outstanding and Stands Out

Simply from the application form, you're likely not to stand out from the other hundreds of applicants with similar grades, extracurricular activities, and volunteer experience. This is where the essay is so important. It's your chance to show the review committee the person behind the application—why you're passionate about this study abroad program and why it's vital that you receive the scholarship. To do this, answer the essay completely and try to show how their investment in you will be compounded because of your study abroad experience. How will it affect your outlook, your future and, more importantly, your community at large? Make sure you review your application meticulously before sending it. Your professionalism, attention to detail, and overall effort can be the difference between being the recipient of an award and being second best. I usually ask my family, esteemed peers or professors to read over my essay for both grammar and content before pressing send.

3) Apply, apply, apply!

You probably won't obtain a scholarship for every application you send in, but the more scholarships you apply for the higher your probability of attaining money and financing your experience. Generally, I try to apply for as many local applications as I am eligible for, because there are usually fewer applicants and therefore less competition. There are also thousands of national/international study abroad scholarships you can find by searching online search engines or scholarship websites. Here are some of my favorites:

- General Scholarship Search Engines: <https://www.scholarships.com/>
- CEA Study Abroad Scholarships: <http://tinyurl.com/jci6tr>
- Institute of International Education Scholarships: <http://tinyurl.com/h6fsez3>
- AIFS Study Abroad Scholarships: <http://www.aifsabroad.com/scholarships.asp>

I'm getting ready to pack my bags this month and head to Spain—an experience that I had originally thought was out of reach. My radical shift in thought—from not thinking I could afford this experience to paying for nearly all of it through scholarships—is due to the persuasion and support of the study abroad counselors. I hope that anything I have written can be the encouragement you need to realize that study abroad is totally attainable! As the Spanish say, “*Si se puedes*” (you can do it!).

This article was first published on the Study Abroad Center blog www.studyabroad.org/blog/ on January 4, 2016.



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

Spring 2016 Calendar at a Glance

Study Abroad Fair
Fri., January 22
9:00am - 2:00pm
Campus Center Mall

First Steps to Study Abroad: Study Abroad 101
Wed., January 27
3:30pm - 4:30pm
Moore 155A

Funding Your Study Abroad Program
Thur., January 28
3:00pm - 4:00pm
Moore 155A

Summer 2016 Application Deadline
Mon., February 1

Informational Meetings (AY Japan 2016-17)
Feb. 11 & 22
Check website for details

AY Japan 2016-17 Application Deadline
Tues., March 1

Informational Meetings (Fall 2016)
Feb. 24 - Mar. 18
Check website for details

Fall 2016 Application Deadline
Fri., April 1

Meet the next Resident Directors

Summer 2016

Mendoza, Argentina
TBA

Angers, France
Joan Deborah joand@hawaii.edu
LLEA - French

Lille, France
Soojin Jun soojin@hawaii.edu
Human Nutrition, Food & Animal Sciences

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History
HIST 345 (W): France in the Old Regime: Early Modern France Through Foreign Eyes

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Family & Consumer Sciences
FAMR 491: Resilience and Transformation in Berlin - Personal Development and Urban Opportunities

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