

# Study Abroad Connections



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## Director's Message

Welcome to a new year and new semester! In this issue we are proud to feature two study abroad alumni, one from a student and the other from a faculty member. Both reflect fondly on their study abroad experience and state how it has positively impacted their lives after returning. Jett Zenthoefer, a business major, shares how he keeps his time abroad alive by encouraging prospective students to consider studying abroad. Jing Wu, instructor of Chinese, details the benefits she achieved on professional and personal levels. I am confident that you will find their narratives as inspiring as we do.

## Student Spotlight: Jett Zenthoefer

Former Study Abroad student Jett Zenthoefer studied abroad to London, England during the Spring 2023 semester and shares about his experiences while abroad.

Hi everyone! My name is Jett Zenthoefer and I am currently a senior here at UH. I am a triple majoring in Marketing, International Business, and Economics, and I am going to be graduating in Spring 2024. I had the amazing opportunity to study abroad in London, England at the University of Roehampton over Spring 2023 in order to fulfill various requirements in getting my degrees.

I like to tell people that my best semester at UH was the one I spent studying abroad, because the memories, opportunities, and experiences that I was able to be a part of while overseas, are a part of my life that have become a defining part of who I am. Studying Abroad gave me clarity in what my future career and education goals are, as well as giving me the opportunity to explore the world and gain experience that I simply could not find without leaving the United States.

Throughout the time that I was considering whether study abroad is for me or not, I had concerns about study abroad being complicated and scary; however, I can confidently say that from the time that you begin the application to the moment you land back in the U.S. following your semester abroad, Study Abroad Center makes the whole process super easy and exciting. The whole study abroad staff are some of the nicest and most passionate people you will ever meet, and they really make sure that you are prepared and well-taken care of no matter what part of the study abroad experience you are currently in. They also help make sure that you have a good group of students and a Resident Director who will accompany you throughout your experience, so that even while you are far from home, you are around a great group of people who you will grow very close to.



## Student Spotlight: Jett Zenthoefer

Former Study Abroad student Jett Zenthoefer studied abroad to London, England during the Spring 2023 semester and shares about his experiences while abroad.

Of the whole experience, saying goodbye to my friends and family as I was departing from Hawaii was the most difficult part, but this quickly began to fade as I heard my flight began boarding as the excitement of starting this next chapter of my life set in. The scenery began to change extremely quickly as I flew from the beautiful and tropical Hawaiian islands to the much colder, but equally as charming, city of London. The European part of the world was now at my doorstep, and I wasted no time planning my trips, meeting new people, and studying in a brand new international perspective. During my time abroad, I took 5 interesting business and economics courses, explored the United Kingdom, and traveled to 12 other countries throughout Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. This left me not only with new and diverse knowledge about my future career, but also opened me up to just how vast and exciting the world is while allowing me to grow as a person, a student, and a professional.

After returning from my study abroad experience, I ran for President of the International Business Organization and have tried to be as involved with the Study Abroad Center as possible in order to share how important study abroad is for students. While sharing my study abroad experience allows me to relive the amazing experiences I had, I also hope to inspire others to take the same step to experience the amazing world we live in. I truly can't recommend any experience more than studying abroad, and I fully believe that the UHM Study Abroad Center is one of the very best ways of finding the perfect study abroad program for every student. My study abroad experience is one that I will forever cherish and be grateful for!



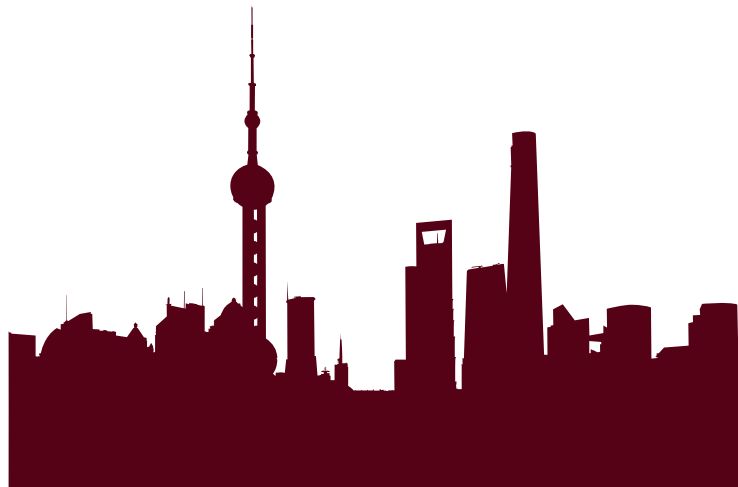
## Resident Director Spotlight: Jing Wu

Jing Wu, Summer 2023 Resident Director, shares about her experiences while abroad.

### ROLE AS AN RD

After serving as a Faculty Resident Director for 6 weeks at SISU, I am convinced that the role of the Faculty Resident Director goes beyond that of a teacher. In this capacity, the Faculty Resident Director also takes on the responsibilities of an administrator, leader, interpreter, decision-maker, and mediator. Throughout the program, I fulfilled the role of the primary point of contact and the support system for the students. I was available to address concerns, provide guidance, and assist with navigating both the host institution and the local culture. I conducted regular check-ins with students, both individually and in group settings, to assess their well-being, academic progress, and overall satisfaction with the program. I closely collaborated with the host institution, faculty members, and students to ensure a seamless academic experience. I facilitated communication between students and faculty, offering assistance with any academic challenges or inquiries that arose. The Experiential Learning Activities I designed aimed to align with the study abroad program's goals and the students' learning outcomes.

Following each project, students submitted journals or reflections addressing questions like "What were your expectations?" "How did your experience differ from your expectations?" "What cultural differences did you encounter while exploring the campus/city?" "What surprised you most during these explorations?" "What aspects did you appreciate the most?" By reflecting on their experiences and emotions, students gradually cultivated diverse perspectives on the host city, host country, and even other nations. Several students noted that field trips, city exploration, and self-reflection were the most impactful aspects of the program. After students submitted their weekly reflections/journals, we typically convened to discuss local social phenomena, issues, or problems, and ultimately proposed potential solutions linked to real-world concerns, such as the city's shared bike program or the developments in Shanghai's garbage classification.



# Resident Director Spotlight: Jing Wu

Jing Wu, Summer 2023 Resident Director, shares about her experiences while abroad.

## PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL BENEFITS

Serving as a Faculty Resident Director during the summer study abroad program brought about significant professional and personal benefits. The experience allowed me to develop leadership and management skills, enhance my intercultural competence, and engage in mentoring and program development. On a personal level, it provided opportunities for cross-cultural exchange, expanded my professional network, and enriched my understanding of different cultures. These benefits have furthered my professional growth and enriched my personal experiences, contributing to my development as an educator and global citizen. As a Faculty Resident Director, I had the opportunity to develop and enhance my leadership and management skills. I was responsible for overseeing the program, coordinating logistics, and supervising student activities. This experience allowed me to strengthen my organizational skills, problem-solving abilities, and decision-making capabilities, which are valuable assets in an academic or administrative role.



Interacting with students from diverse cultural backgrounds offered me a rich cross-cultural exchange experience. Engaging in discussions, sharing perspectives, and learning from students' unique experiences enriched my understanding of different cultures and broadened my worldview. This exposure fostered personal growth, empathy, and a greater appreciation for cultural diversity. Serving as a Faculty Resident Director provided me with opportunities to deliver instruction and facilitate learning outside of the traditional classroom setting. Engaging with students in experiential and cross-cultural learning environments challenged me to develop innovative teaching methods, adapt my instructional strategies, and enhance my communication skills. These experiences enriched my teaching repertoire and improved my ability to engage students in diverse learning contexts. Engaging in cultural activities, exploring historical sites, and participating in local traditions deepened my understanding of the host country's culture. This experience not only enhanced my personal growth but also provided me with valuable insights that can be incorporated into my teaching and research.

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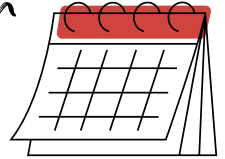
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@UHMSTUDYABROAD

# Spring 2024 Calendar



## FOR STUDENTS

WED, JAN 17: Study Abroad Fair - Virtual

FRI, JAN 19: Study Abroad Fair - Campus Center  
Courtyard

FRI, FEB 16 AT 4pm(HST): Summer 2024 Application  
Deadline

FRI, MAR 1 AT 4pm(HST): Year 2024-2025 Application  
Deadline

MAR 18 - MAR 22: Spring recess

MON, APR 1 AT 4pm (HST): Fall 2024 Application  
Deadline

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

21ST ANNUAL  
STUDY ABROAD  
**SPRING  
FESTIVAL**  
COMING SOON!

**VIRTUAL - JAN 17**  
**IN-PERSON - JAN 19**

LEARN ABOUT YOUR OPTIONS ABROAD  
THROUGH MEETING WITH OUR GUEST  
SPEAKERS, FORMER STUDENTS AND  
FACULTY, AND SAC ADVISORS!

**DONATE  
TODAY!**

STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP  
FUND

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

[CLICK HERE](#)

# Summer 2024 Resident Directors

## ANGERS, FRANCE

Jacob Huss ([jacob@hawaii.edu](mailto:jacob@hawaii.edu))  
LLEA, French

## BERLIN, GERMANY

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Geography & Environment

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Organic Chemistry/Physics: Stephanie Kraft-Terry ([kraft2@hawaii.edu](mailto:kraft2@hawaii.edu))  
School of Life Sciences  
Nursing: Deidamia (Lina) Monfort ([monfort8@hawaii.edu](mailto:monfort8@hawaii.edu))  
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