University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Study Abroad Center

Study Abroad Connections

DUBLIN, IRELAND - SUMMER 2023

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Message from the Director

As the spring semester came to a close, we now continue onwards to the summer semester full of opportunities for our students. As many students are about to embark on their study abroad journeys over the summer, many are also preparing their study abroad experience for the upcoming fall semester. This summer newsletter will demonstrate how our students were able to overcome challenges while abroad, whether that is through language, way of communication, and or culture shock. By facing challenges, our students are able to grow through cultural immersion professionally, academically, and personally. I hope that you will enjoy reading their experiences from our students.

With Aloha,
Sarita Rai
Director

Editor: Kittana Wagener

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Communication Challenges - Student Perspectives

What communication challenges did you have in your host culture? Describe the strategies that you used to handle these challenges.

"At the beginning of my time abroad I struggled a lot with communication when going to local markets or stores due to the language barrier, however, I found that the more I immersed myself in the city and culture, the quicker I was able to learn and pickup on useful words and phrases. At first, the language barrier made me very anxious, however, with the help of my professors as well as putting an active effort into learning, I was able to advance my Italian language skills and quickly grew very comfortable with conducting my daily tasks such as going to the store and ordering food and drinks. Furthermore, I also really enjoyed and benefited from making local friends. By frequenting certain restaurants or coffee shops, I was able to grow a relationship with many locals which helped me to grow comfortable with my environment and helped me advance my language skills.

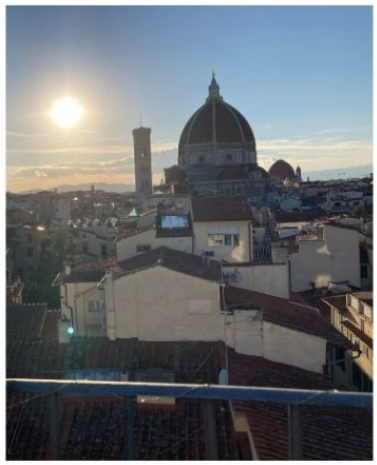
Emma Seidfathi - Fall 2023 - Florence, Italy

"Thankfully, there weren't many issues with language barriers in the UK; however, subtle differences in words or phrases did need to be learned. Different words for certain food items for example was interesting and just going to the grocery stores or doing google searches for different names helped a lot. Even small nuances such as gherkin instead of pickle or ginger beer rather than ginger ale could trip you up. I think also speaking to people who were raised in the host country was very helpful in learning what's different about the place you are vs. where you're from."

Chelsea Kaneshiro - Fall 2023 - London, England

Communication Challenges - Student Perspectives

What communication challenges did you have in your host culture? Describe the strategies that you used to handle these challenges.



"The most apparent and almost obvious communication challenge I experienced was the language barrier. Before my trip I did learn some very basic Italian but I was in no means proficient. This had occasionally resulted in misunderstandings or issues completely expressing myself in certain situations, particularly when engaged in complex conversations or attempting to convey nuanced thoughts of emotions. But befriending some Italians was helpful and since they held a lot of pride for their country and language, they were more than willing to teach Italian to me and force me to speak it as much as possible, like ordering at restaurants mainly. I enjoyed learning from them more about their culture and they were always excited to show and share with me. I think one of the biggest tips that helped me learn was not to be afraid to ask questions - these questions range from random things I've noticed that were different to what their thoughts and opinions were on certain topics surrounding cultural differences. Schooling system, dating, family dynamics, different viewpoints on places around Italy, etc. But still within these conversations a language barrier was appending with more complex and introspective questions. To supplement, I relied on nonverbal signs and context clues like gestures, facial expression, and body language. When words failed to express my message or grasp the intention of others, nonverbal communication was often used to help. A lot of hand sign gestures were used. Italians tend to have more expressive and animated conversations often involving a lot of gestures and directness. As someone who is typically more reserved with communication being more quiet or indirect. Adopting this expressive and lively manner presented some difficulties in recognizing the intended tone or meaning behind someone encounters and conversations or taking things in the wrong way. But overall, if there was a miscommunication its was quickly resolved and laughed about."

Anastasia Gonzales Renko - Fall 2023 - Florence, Italy

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Study Abroad Center

1890 East West Road
Moore Hall, Room 115
Honolulu, HI 96822

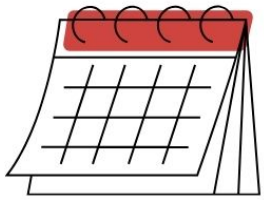
Phone
(808)-956-5143
(808)-956-6958

Fax
(808)-956-9319

Website
studyabroad.hawaii.edu

@UHMSTUDYABROAD

Fall 2024 Calendar



FOR STUDENTS

FRI, Sep 6: Spring 2025 Kobe, Japan Application Due

FRI, Sep 13: Study Abroad Fair - Campus Center

MON, Sep 16 - FRI, Oct 4: Informational Meetings

TUE, OCT 15: Spring 2025 Application Due

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

FOR RESIDENT DIRECTORS

THU, Oct 3: Summer 2025 RD Application Due

MON, Nov 4: Fall 2025/Spring 2026 RD Application Due

Fall 2024 Resident Directors

LONDON, ENGLAND

David Beilman (beilman@hawaii.edu)
Geography and Environment

1. **GEO 302/SUST 314**: Global Environmental Issues 'Climate Change and the City'
2. **GEO 411/SUST 413**: Past Global Change and the Human Era

MACHIDA, JAPAN

Brian Szuster (szuster@hawaii.edu)
Geography and Environment

1. **GEO/TIM 324**: Geography of Global Tourism
2. **GEO 414**: Natural Hazards and Community Resilience

KŌBE, JAPAN

Atsushi Hasegawa (atsushih@hawaii.edu)
East Asian Languages and Literatures

- **Fall 2024 - JPN 330:** Linguistic Analysis of Manga and Anime
- **Spring 2025 - JPN 493:** Project Work in Japanese

FLORENCE, ITALY

Kathryn Hoffman (hoffmann@hawaii.edu)
Languages and Literatures of Europe and the Americas

1. **LLEA 270/ART 389B:** Freaks and Monsters: An interdisciplinary Approach to Marvel and Curiosity/Study Abroad-Art History
2. **LLEA 471B (WI)/ART 389C (WI):** Fantastic, Strange, and Sci-Fi/Study Abroad-Art History

SEVILLE, SPAIN

Marc Moody (mmoody@hawaii.edu)
School of Cinematic Arts

1. **CINE 350 (WI)/CINE 384**: Screenwriting **(DA)**/Study Abroad
2. **CINE452C/HIST 452C/HIST 452E (DH)**: History and Film