Advantages of Going Abroad

Learning and respecting other cultures through a lens never before seen is one advantage of studying abroad. As a student you get immersed in rich culture and coursework, making it difficult not to experience life-changing opportunities. Getting a chance to learn about your major in another country is a huge reward. With studying both in a university and around the area, you grow in the changing aspects of foreign life.

Questions about Study Abroad

Q: Can I afford it?
A: Yes; we offer many exchange programs that cost the same as UNC Asheville tuition and fees. You can also use your financial aid towards these programs and several scholarships are available.

Q: Will it delay my graduation?
A: No, especially if you plan courses accordingly that cater to your major! Also summer programs are helpful to possibly graduate early.

SUMMER 2015 PROGRAMS

CHINA. GERMANY.
GREECE. ITALY.
GHANA. SOUTH KOREA.

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For more information: studyabroad.unca.edu
I’m currently studying in Mannheim, Germany at the University of Mannheim. Our semester started in September; however I’ve been in Europe since mid-June. I was doing a summer study abroad program which ended in July. This gave me about a month to travel Europe before I had to be in Mannheim to begin the summer language academy which started on August 1st. My travels took me to Wroclaw (Poland), Prague (The Czech Republic), Nitra and Bratislava (Slovakia), Budapest (Hungary) and Vienna (Austria). Along the way I met some incredible people and made some amazing memories. The countries I visited (with the exception of Austria, which is expensive) were cheap, had good food, great people and beautiful sights.

During the summer language academy I quickly made many friends from countries all over the globe. I already know that many of these people will be friends for life and during our short time here we have experienced many wonderful moments together. My favorite experience so far was attending Wasen, the second largest beer festival in Germany (after Oktoberfest) which is held in Stuttgart. Many people were dressed in traditional attire, lederhosen for men and dirndls for women. Beer was served by the “Mass” which are one liter glasses that cost around 9 euros each. It was a beautiful sight to see all the people singing along to the German songs which we did not know the words to. At one point they even played the Macarena and everyone stood on the tables to dance.

Looking at the calendar these days makes me sad. Sad that I only have around two more months with these incredibly amazing people. Sad that I will no longer be able to hop on a train for four hours and be in a different country. Sad that I won’t be able to enjoy the wonderful food anymore. My plan is to get a job as soon as I return home in order to save up money to return to Europe during the summer and visit all of the friends I’ve made so far. If you are debating whether or not to study abroad, do it. Don’t even think about it. I had no idea going into this that I would ever have this much fun. It’s been the time of my life and I am avoiding counting down the days until I go home.
My study abroad experience is not easy to summarize in print, but I could speak about it for days. I can pinpoint many moments when I felt myself grow as a student and a person. During my study abroad semester, I truly went on exchange and became part of another culture in Graz, Austria. To begin, the beautiful landscape of southern Austria is very similar to the mountains of Western North Carolina I call home.

I spent much of my semester, during class breaks and weekends traveling across the country and throughout Europe. The university was a different kind of college than I was used to. It was larger than UNC Asheville and didn’t have the student involvement that I love to be a part of. Although this could have felt isolating, I welcomed the chance to be lost in a crowd. The campus itself was exactly how I expected an old European university would look. With classical buildings and a library that was heavenly, I enjoyed the limited time I spent on campus outside of class. I relished the free time I had & used it to explore the city and travel to other places.

My course workload was structured differently than at my home university, where we have class multiple times a week and homework each night. In Graz, we met once a week, with only weekly readings and papers due at the end of the semester. One course, about south-eastern European political culture, was a master’s level course with almost all Balkan students who brought their own personal experience in the classroom. With two professors, one from Austria and one from Slovenia, combined with a diverse class of students, I was taught in different ways I would not have experienced at UNC Asheville.

When learning about the recent history of Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia--Herzegovina, Albania, and Macedonia, I heard stories from students who were alive during the Balkan Wars of the 1990s. Although they were young at the time, their families and loved ones were directly involved in the violence and reconstruction of former Yugoslavian states, as they became independent nations. It took extra work to learn more about the region but I am now confident in my understanding of these often overlooked places. I also had the chance to visit some of them with my friends and see how beautiful and welcoming they are.

I was serendipitously placed in student housing that had long-term international students and Austrians, rather than only short-term exchange students. I lived with Austrian, Canadian, Croatian, Polish, Thai, Bosnian, Bulgarian, and French students. Every day I was surrounded by international students, where I picked up a bit of these languages, along with recipes from all of these places. The friends I made in class were hospitable and many invited me to visit their homes. One girl from my German course drove us around her home country of Slovenia for a weekend, and I remember it as one of my favorite trips. Although I am very extroverted, I was forced to meet new people all the time in hostels and on trains.

By the time I traveled again for a month after the term ended, before returning home, being alone was preferable. I consider these times I traveled solo to be the best and most rewarding of my time abroad. I recommend it to anyone who wants to be challenged and really get to know herself. I loved my time abroad for being exposed to diverse people and places.

My studies were challenging and have already contributed to my current courses back home. It is hard to fully describe the experiences I had and the ways it has benefited me. I can only say that I returned with a broader perspective and better understanding of the world around me. More than that, I know and appreciate myself to the fullest degree. I can only expect that future travels abroad will continue to build on these understandings.
GLOBE TROTTERS

Summer Programs

Did you know that the Study Abroad Office offers multiple summer programs with UNC Asheville credit during the summer? UNC Asheville Faculty-Led Programs are great opportunities to receive credit and go abroad! Check out what we’re offering Summer 2015!

Deadline to apply is Feb. 16th, 2015!

China - Exploring China
This program offers a service learning course and introduces students to contemporary Chinese culture, society, economy & language. Offering INTS 373 Exploring China and Teaching Practicum & ASIA 373 Contemporary China.

Germany - German Culture & Language
Language development and German culture are the focus of this trip, offering three courses: German Language Course, German 373 Special Topics in German, and German 499 Undergraduate Research in German.

South Korea - Korean Studies
This program offers students a great opportunity to learn about Korean culture. Participants receive 6 credits: Korean Language and Culture and A Teaching Practicum.

Italy - Italy Archaeology
This program is an archaeological field school centered on the excavation of an ancient Etruscan and Roman sanctuary and habitation site. Courses offered are: CLAS 373 Field Methods in Archaeology & CLAS 499 Undergraduate Research.

Greece - The Greek Experience
This program aims to view the culture of this part of the world from multiple perspectives within a modern geographical context. Two courses will be taught in the program: HWP 373 Food Ways of the Mediterranean and CLAS 393 Greek Epic and Tragedy.

Ghana - Discover Ghana
This four-week program immerses students in Ghanaian society with two courses: Chemistry 373 Science of Ghana and Humanities 414 Individual in the Contemporary World.

study abroad: see the world from a new perspective