

UNC Asheville Study Away Newsletter

Vol. 1, Issue 1

www.unca.edu/studyabroad

Spring 2011

National Student Exchange

Are you interested in experiencing another culture without going overseas? Is there a certain state you have always wanted to live in? Do you want to take classes that are not offered at UNCA?

Do you want to visit a university at which you

intend to go to graduate school?

If your answer to any of these questions is 'yes,' then consider applying to the National Student Exchange (NSE) program.

NSE allows you to study in any of the 50 states, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S.

Virgin Islands, or Canada for a semester or a year.

With almost 200 NSE colleges and universities, you will almost certainly find a program that matches your personality, interest, and goals while paying UNCA's tuition and fees.

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Clark Williams**
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Edited by: A. Wickersham
University of Wyoming to UNCA

Clark Williams: UNCA to Cape Breton University

Clark is a current UNC Asheville student studying away at a campus in Canada for the Spring 2011 semester. This is what he has to say about studying away:

"I am currently studying away in Nova Scotia, Canada at Cape Breton University.

The reason I wanted to come to Canada in particular, is because ever since I was a little boy, I've always dreamed of living up north for the winter. Winter is my favorite season and I just LOVE snow. Its nostalgia is unlike any other to me, and it makes for the perfect get-away from being in such a busy world. I was really looking forward to a cozy and wintery travel session, but I was also worried. One thing that is difficult about studying away for such a short period, is that, for a shy person like me, meeting people can be really hard. Being here

now, my worries have been unfolding in a realistic way. I've had to work at recognizing my limitations by admitting to myself that 'making friends' is only one of the many things I wanted to do when I came here. Granted, I still haven't met anyone that I can get close to, but it hasn't at all put a damper on things. I'm just so thrilled to be here. Even though I miss socializing, I'm becoming more and more comfortable with the depth of my own identity (as well as learning to recognize the benefits of having some solid alone-time)."

Initially setting up my trip with NSE, I was nerve-wrecked because I thought I wouldn't be able to "handle it" when I finally got into Canada. I was so wrong. This trip is really teaching me that there isn't a 'right' way to go about traveling, and that speculations about traveling are

exciting to rid yourself of. Instead of incessantly pressuring myself to meet people, I'm coming to terms with a side of myself that I wouldn't have been able to see without the objective lens of traveling.

This has been such a unique opportunity for me, because I won't have this opportunity again for a long time (financially speaking). I learned about NSE through my home university's study abroad coordinator. She told me about how financial aid can make the trip financially plausible, while not adding a whole lot to my total college debt.



Picture of the Sydney Harbor in Canada by Clark Williams.

I really think that this trip will be memorable for me. It's my first time getting away from home, I'm doing it 100% on my own, and I'm very proud of myself. I'm sincerely thinking of doing this again."

Top Ten Reasons to Study Away

We asked students who are studying away at UNC Asheville what some of their reasons for studying away were.

1) To have an experience outside of your home campus. 2) Study Abroad is expensive. 3) Maintain your scholarship. 4) Not get behind in classes. 5) Different selection of classes. 6) See a different part of the country. 7) Pay your tuition and fees to go to school somewhere else! 8)

Looks good on resumes. 9) To meet new people. 10) To grow as a person and to be independent.

The experience you get from studying away will stay with you for a lifetime.

You grow and learn as a person in the experiences and struggles you have from being away from home and your home campus.

You get to travel the country while it is financially feasible. **Kayla Conrad**,

Indiana Purdue at Fort Wayne to UNC Asheville, a junior majoring in History says, "The experience has been great, and I'd definitely suggest it to anyone who feels like traveling around the country and learning while having a great time!" Also, **Jessi Fitzgerald**, a graduating senior majoring in Biology/Ecology from New Mexico State University says, "I miss my home school and the environment I came from

but have really enjoyed my stay in NC and would encourage anyone to take advantage of this amazing opportunity," talking about her experience in Asheville so far.

The accounts of students studying away prove that NSE is a great experience to have. To participate in NSE, contact the Study Abroad/Study Away program in University Hall, under the cafeteria.

Amari Clements: SC State to UNCA

Amari Clements is a junior majoring in Mass Communication with a concentration in Journalism. She is studying away at UNC Asheville from South Carolina State. She tells her experience of being at Asheville so far:

"I chose NSE because it was a way to leave my school and experience a different atmosphere without having to deal with transferring. For my exchange I came here to UNCA from South Carolina State which is a Historically Black College and University (HBCU).

My first few weeks were a pain! I'm not sure if the other NSE people had a tough time, but I was overwhelmed and discouraged by the time September rolled around. Luckily Robert Straub is AWESOME! I really found him to be a HUGE help with my transition. Although we all leave after awhile, we all get

close to Robert and feel like we have gained a reliable mentor. He is always willing to help although he literally has a hundred other things to do.

At South Carolina State, I am in the Honors Program and during my colloquium class, the teacher brought up the NSE program and asked if anyone was interested. I needed a break from Orangeburg before I just went crazy, so I thought this was ultimately my lucky day!

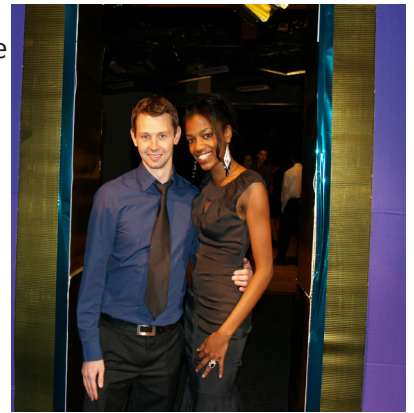
I am originally from Atlanta, and I had never heard of Asheville prior to me coming here. Though not as diverse as I had hoped, most of the people I have met have been extremely nice and helpful.

I didn't have a job at my home campus, so coming here and being able to work one-on-one with SAIL has taught me a lot. I had always wanted to know how the events got

planned and organized; now I am one of the people organizing them!

I would tell people to pick NSE just to say you did something different. Obviously, it's not as exciting as going out of the country, but it is still a learning experience. UNCA and SC State are 100% different from each other. What's funny is the people who go here complain so much about it, and I'm excited because it is so much better than State in a lot of ways. I do hope to take back some innovative things like the filter on the water fountains, and the cool laundry feature that sends texts to your phone when your laundry is done. Also some events we had here, like the ice skating and roller rink, that were really successful.

For the most part, I learned that people have problems with everything, everywhere because no



Amari Clements at a SAIL event with Snorri Marteinnsson.

things are perfect. You have to really focus on yourself and the reason why you are in college in order to not go crazy worried about things you can't control, like parking. I do know when I leave, I might really be sad and shed a few tears. I didn't even expect to be here because UNCA was my 3rd choice, but it has worked out. (won't really know until May when I get those last grades.)"

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