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< Kelsey Murrell, KU senior from Kearney, MO., was awarded the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship which will allow her to pursue master's degrees at Oxford University in Oxford, England. Murrell, pictured left in Costa Rica, attributes study abroad as part of her academic success.

## Study abroad plays major role for KU Rhodes scholar

Past study abroad participant and future KU graduate Kelsey Murrell has been awarded the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship and will be attending Oxford University in Oxford, England as she pursues two master's degrees.

The Rhodes Scholarships are postgraduate awards supporting outstanding all-round students at the University of Oxford, and providing transformative opportunities for exceptional individuals.

Established in 1903 under the will of Cecil Rhodes, the Rhodes is the oldest and perhaps the most prestigious international graduate scholarship program in the world. A total class of 83 Scholars is selected each year from Australia, Bermuda, Canada, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica and Commonwealth Caribbean, Kenya, New Zealand, Pakistan, Southern Africa (including South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, and Swaziland), United States, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. This year, of the 26 students awarded the scholarship in the U.S., most come from Brown University, Princeton University, Stanford University and Harvard University.

Murrell is now the 26th student from KU to receive this award. She is also the only student from Kansas to earn the scholarship for 2012. Murrell, a senior from Kearney, Missouri, will receive her Bachelor of Arts in English in May 2012. Murrell was able to study abroad three times during her undergraduate career. She participated in the Honors Costa Rica Program in January 2011, the Honors London Review Program during spring break of 2011, and the Field Biology in Amazonian Peru Program during the summer of 2011.

Beginning October 2012 at Oxford University, Murrell will be pursuing a Masters of Science (MSE) in Refugee and Forced Migration and a MSE in Comparative Social Policy. Her time abroad affected Murrell's decision both on pursuing an education at Oxford, and her chosen field of study.

During her time in London, Murrell visited Oxford University with Program Director Mary Klayder. Klayder states Murrell's time in London was very influential on her decision to pursue the Rhodes scholarship and applying to Oxford University.

"When she was in London, she roamed the city and took advantage of many of the theatre and cultural offerings but really opened up in Oxford. She stood on the patio at Corpus Christi College where Jay Sexton, a former Jayhawk and current Oxford professor hosted a reception. She looked at me and said, 'I am coming here!' Well, the rest is history," states Klayder.

London had a large impact on Murrell and gave her a different perspective on her academics. "We each have the opportunity to research an aspect of London that we are interested in prior to visiting the UK. I studied immigration and multiculturalism in London, exploring London as really a global city. Studying abroad really helped me understand migration as a global issue," states Murrell.

During her time in Costa Rica Murrell believes she learned more about herself more than anything. "In terms of outlook of life the Costa Rica program was most influential. It helped me think in a different way and I learned a lot. I struggled previously in science and I learned

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CONTACT INFORMATION:  
OSAalumni@ku.edu  
(785) 864-3742  
www.studyabroad.ku.edu

# Kelsey Murrell



more about biodiversity in the two weeks I was there than I had previously,” states Murrell. Murrell also learned a lot outside of the classroom. “The culture of Costa Rica had an atmosphere of loving to learn and letting go. It also made me want to be more physically active and healthy and made me appreciate nature more.”

Klayder, who also directs the Honors Costa Rica program, believes Murrell’s time in Costa Rica affected her personally. “Kelsey became comfortable with herself in Costa Rica. She embraced the culture and it opened up her literary interests into broader cultural ones. Always someone who excelled as a traditional student, she discovered that she learned differently and in ways more personally through experience. I could see her relax into that style of learning in Costa Rica,” states Klayder

Finally, Murrell’s experience in Peru directly correlates with her field of study. Murrell says, “Study abroad showed migration as a global issue instead of just a U.S. and Mexico issue, and it registered with me more. And it directly relates to my field of study. In Peru I got to see firsthand some really big social and environmental problems. That was life changing for



▲ Mary Klayder, left, and Kelsey Murrell, posing during the Honors Costa Rica Program during winter 2011. Klayder was a large influence and a mentor during Murrell’s Rhodes Scholarship process.

sure. The level of poverty, the lack of education, the deforestation, and pollution problems from gold mining were all things I saw.” Murrell relays what most study abroad students experience during their time abroad and how it affects their education. “It’s one thing to study it in a classroom, but looking someone in the eyes that experiences it everyday changes your perspective.”

Tom and Jann Rudkin, both 1973 KU graduates, are strongly supportive of international education at KU. Through the generosity of the Rudkins, Murrell was able to study abroad in Peru. The Rudkin Undergraduate Scholarships for International Interdisciplinary Research Experiences program sponsored the students for the initial program to Peru.

“We strongly believe in the importance of giving students opportunities to work collaboratively with others in different disciplines, to do original research, and to have a meaningful international experience during their undergraduate career. That is why we supported the International Interdisciplinary Research Experience initiative of the KU Biodiversity Institute and the Spencer Museum of Art. And we are extremely pleased with the inaugural project of this initiative in Peru last summer, which combined students in ecology, entomol-

ogy, theater, journalism, graphic novels, photography, and several other fields, mentored by a professor of entomology and a curator at the Spencer. We hope this project becomes a model for further efforts to provide KU undergraduate and graduate students with real-world experience in integrating disciplines and synthesizing knowledge across the sciences, arts and humanities in a global context.”

Murrell is grateful for donors like the Rudkins. “The Rudkins funded my entire trip, and if not for them I wouldn’t have been able to go,” states Murrell.



▲ Kelsey Murrell posing during the London Review Honors program during spring break 2011. After visiting both London, England and Oxford, England, Murrell decided to apply to Oxford University and for the Rhodes Scholarship.

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# Thank You!

^ Through the generous support of our alumni and friends (listed below for endowed funds and donations received between November 1, 2010 and October 31, 2011), and the Office of the Chancellor and Office of the Provost, approximately 11% of the 1,072 KU study abroad participants received scholarships toward their experience abroad in 2011. A total of 120 KU students received financial support for their studies in various countries. Scholarship amounts ranged from \$250 to \$2,000. Our goal is to increase both the number and size of the scholarships awarded to KU study abroad participants and make studying abroad a reality for more KU Students.

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# Engineering Abroad

## Aerospace Engineering offered in Delft, The Netherlands

KU and Technical University (TU Delft) in Delft, The Netherlands, signed an Aerospace Engineering (AE) Exchange in 2008. This exchange offers AE majors a great opportunity to earn credit abroad toward their major.

The Aerospace Faculty is one of the largest of the eight faculties at TU Delft and one of the largest faculties devoted entirely to aerospace engineering in Northern Europe. It is the only unique institute carrying out research and education directly related to aerospace engineering in The Netherlands. The Faculty has a student body of over 2000 undergraduates and graduates, about 250 members of academic staff and 100 PhD students. Around 25% of the student population has a foreign nationality. The Faculty has extensive laboratory and testing facilities that are used in research and teaching. The facilities include super-sonic, hyper-sonic and sub-sonic wind tunnels, a high sensitivity navigation simulator, and a materials testing laboratory. These facilities make it possible to conduct experiments in man-machine factors, flight control, structures and materials, aerodynamics, simulation, motion and navigation.

Ronald Barrett-Gonzalez, Associate Professor of Aerospace Engineering at KU, was an integral part of the agreement between TU Delft and KU. "We are so happy that the KU-TU Delft exchange is healthy and has attracted so many fantastic students from both institutions. Starting with the efforts of the fabled Professor Emeritus Jan Roskam, who attracted the first Dutch students here nearly 40 years ago, more than 100 individuals have gone between KU and Delft. The exchange is quite dynamic because it's supported by two KU faculty members who spent a year there each, one TU Delft Professor who came this way and another who earned his Ph.D. here at KU just a few years ago. It's been a lot of fun to have been and be part of this exchange as we meet ever more 'nieuwe vrienden' (new friends) every semester," states Barrett-Gonzalez.



▲ Old Church, located in Delft, The Netherlands, and site of of Technical University - Delft.

Barrett-Gonzalez received his Ph.D. with honors from KU in Aerospace Engineering in 1993 and was a visiting professor at TU Delft during the 2003-2004 academic year.

At TU Delft, all graduate-level courses, as well as undergraduate courses in the Aerospace Faculty, are taught in English. Students should plan to take most, if not all, of their courses within the Aerospace Faculty.

TU Delft is the largest and most comprehensive university of technology in The Netherlands. The University enjoys a good international reputation, and leads the way in research into technological innovations.

Delft arranges accommodation in cooperation with the housing organization DUWO. Both private and shared student units are available. Almost all rooms are equipped with an internet connection and washing machines, and are close to the university. There is some on-campus housing, but generally students live off campus yet nearby.

Delft is in the province of South Holland. It is located between Rotterdam and The Hague, near the coast and less than an hour from Amsterdam. Delft is primarily known for its typically Dutch town center: and also for the painter Vermeer, Delft Blue pottery, Delft University of Technology, and its association with the Dutch royal family, the House of Orange-Nassau. Delft has a reputation for being a friendly city; terraces along the canals and on the city squares, quirky shops, affordable restaurants and great cinemas. It is easy to find your way around as everything is close together. Delft is bursting with activity from spring right through to autumn, including music festivals and street theatre.

Delft also has a lively student population, with the largest number of active student societies in The Netherlands. Students are also encouraged to join their study association. Study associations are attached to a particular academic program and organize program-based activities, such as study trips and excursions, and provide entertainment. Members of a study association usually benefit from substantial discounts on the textbooks, as well.



▲ TU Delft offers one of the largest faculties devoted entirely to Aerospace Engineering in Northern Europe.

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## KU Study Abroad website eases process for students

The Office of Study Abroad launched a new website and online applications in September. Students are now able to easily search for available study abroad programs by numerous criteria such as language of instruction, academic discipline, and destination, among other options. Inquiries or questions regarding program details can also be directly requested online through program brochure pages. The new online application process replaces the paper application from the past and students are now able to easily keep track of the progress of their study abroad application, answer required questionnaires online, as well as view materials that have been submitted. Another great feature of the new online application system is the ability for students to electronically request faculty recommendations. This new process allows faculty to submit their recommendations online as well.

Please visit our new website at [www.studyabroad.ku.edu](http://www.studyabroad.ku.edu).