

AnnaParadis

Summer 2012
Internships Abroad
München, Germany

For me, the opportunity to study and travel to Germany was like a homecoming. Having served in the Air Force I was stationed in Germany for three years, and I vowed to return as soon as I had the chance. Well it took me 8 years to make it back, but it was well worth the wait. My KU museum studies internship was a collaboration between the Deutsches Museum of Science & Technology and the Rachel Carson Center for Environment & Society, and the support that I received throughout the process was invaluable. I was able to meet and work with museum professionals, interdisciplinary researchers, graduate students, and scholars from all over the world who share my love for museums, history, and nature. I feel very fortunate to have made so many friends and professional contacts.

Having to leave my husband and daughter behind in Lawrence, my transition to living in Germany was hard at first, but it was made easy by the hospitality and efficiency of Bavaria as well as the cooler weather. Bavaria is also well known as the home of Oktoberfest and the Dirndl. Weißwurst, Wiener Schnitzel, and Käsespätzle were my favorite foods and I took every opportunity to eat Bavarian cuisine while living here.

What struck me most about living in München is the quality of life. People really enjoy themselves and their city, taking as much time as they need to dine with friends or make a meal with their family. Germans are also serious sportsman. Biking is a way of life here in München, and I bought a bicycle before my first week was over. A city with a lot of cultural heritage and history, I was able to visit many museums and gardens during the evenings and weekends, learning very quickly to look out for bike lanes while exploring. Although not as elegant a commuter as many here in München, my commute to work was only 1 minute, since I was able to live in an apartment within the Deutsches Museum! How many people can boast that they have lived in a museum for several months while studying abroad?



I had such an amazing and inspiring experience working as an intern at the Deutsches Museum of Science & Technology. With three museum locations, 785,700 sq. ft of exhibition space and over 100,000 objects in their collection, the Deutsches Museum is the largest science & technology museum in the world. As a museum studies student, this provided me with the opportunity to work on the conceptual phase of a multimillion dollar exhibit that will open in fall 2014 titled, "Anthropocene – Nature and Technology in the Age of Man." This internship provided me with a strong base of museum and research experience at a world-renowned institution and I hope to return here to see the exhibition in a few years.

Living in another country can be challenging, as there are rules and behaviors that are unfamiliar, but you soon catch on and learn the value of these cultural norms finding comfort in your new home. As an example, Sunday's in Germany are days of rest. This means that everything closes to allow time for quiet and family activities, requiring you to plan ahead.

During my stay, I was able to visit Austria, Italy, France, and Switzerland and create many lasting memories with my family who joined me for several weeks at the museum. I will miss Bavaria very much and will once again seek every opportunity to return, but as they say in Bavaria, "Alles hat ein Ende, nur die Wurst hat zwei," which translates to, "all things have an end, but sausages have two."

JillLanglas

Spring 2012
Wollongong, Australia

I chose to study abroad spring semester 2012 in Wollongong, Australia with a goal to acclimate myself with the Australian lifestyle and learn how to adapt to a new culture. What I didn't expect is that while in Australia I would not only be exposed to the Aussie culture, but so many more. I lived in the International House in Wollongong, home to students from over thirty countries and every inhabited continent. While living in the International House, I had the privilege to celebrate a Norwegian holiday with Norwegians, travel Australia with a Canadian, trade music with a Korean, play soccer with a Persian, study with a Bhutanese boy and cook with a Japanese girl.

The International House at Wollongong was amazing at fostering a global experience and showcasing every student's unique culture. One event that I enjoyed most was called "IFeast". Everyone in International House had the opportunity to prepare dishes from their home country for all of the other students to try. I personally love to cook and was extremely excited by this opportunity. The American team decided to cook buffalo chicken dip, apple pie and macaroni and cheese. There were about twenty Americans living in the International House. However, my friend, Mayumi, was the only Japanese student in International House and asked me if I would help her with her dishes. I loved the idea of learning to cook something new and gladly accepted.

Mayumi picked three Japanese dishes: okonomiyaki (seafood cabbage pancake), red bean mocha for dessert and sushi. She brought me to the Asian grocery store to buy the special okonomiyaki sauce, red beans and bamboo sushi rollers. We spent six hours on each Friday, Saturday and Sunday preparing for the feast to be served to 250 people. We cooked with a lot of different seafood including squid and I received a lesson on how to roll sushi!

The night of IFeast was amazing and delicious. Everyone wore clothing from their country and Mayumi found me a blue kimono to wear.



We found a youtube video to teach us how to put it on! We served the food to the rest of International House and other visitors from the Wollongong area. I also got to try so many new dishes; my favorite being chocolate balls from France, mango smoothie from Sri Lanka, goat from Kenya, kangaroo stew from Australia, Pad Thai from Thailand and apple Danish from Austria. Living at International House was an amazing opportunity to learn new cultures. International House helped me reach outside my comfort zone to experience new cultures even if it meant trying a funny looking food. Living at International House was the highlight of my study abroad experience!



photo submitted by
Korab Eland, London Internship
Summer 2012

JayhawksAbroad

/ a newsletter from the Office of Study Abroad

Fall2012

Study Abroad Fair
Thursday, September 6th
10:30-3:30
4th Floor, Kansas Union

AnnieWindholz

Academic Year 2011-2012
Leicester, England

With my first steps on English soil last fall I was embraced by my soon to be Leicester University family. Swept up into a world of culture, laughter and friendship I met amazing people from every corner of the world. I was never alone for the whole nine months I was in Europe; whether I was relaxing with my English roommate, exploring the continent with my international crew, studying with my scholarly course mates or drinking tea with my loyal “Hastings House” pals.

Hastings House was an epic Edwardian mansion on campus that the University assigned me; Harry Potter-esque stairs, a magical garden, secret nooks and crannies and every room complete with an ancient fireplace. This eclectic place accommodated the twenty odd co-ed students that became a tight knit family to me that year.

My courses that year were great- I took everything from Politics to Art History to Classical Latin. I met so many English students in class and they were always excited to compare cultures. After classes we frequented the campus pubs and learned about each other over chips and pints.

During the two month winter break I stayed in Berlin, Germany with family friends. It was my first time being on my own in a non-English speaking country. It was, to say the least, a very humbling experience. After the confidence boost of the first semester abroad in England- this trip spelled out just how much I had still to learn about the world. Sauerkraut, currywursts and my lovely German host family helped make the transition easier.

When I got back to Leicester second semester I wanted to travel more, so I became involved in the International Student Association. We went on regular weekend trips around England, Wales and Scotland. Whether it was soaking up Liverpool on Saint Patrick’s Day, shuddering at local ghost stories in Edinburgh or scaling castles in Caernarfon, we did it all. When I had free time I drooled over my



favorite English bands and took informal language lessons from my international friends.

Spring break came out of nowhere- and suddenly my friends and I had a month and a half of European travel to plan. By the end of the month we had traveled to Ireland, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands and France. Visiting friends in their home countries made the traveling so much better as opposed to merely being a tourist. In Belgium we stayed with our friend Loic and his family. We ate waffles in the busy Brussels streets, chips in romantic Bruges and tried local beers in Liege. In France we stayed with my good friend Eva; her family fixed traditional French meals for us nightly and we tried everything from foie gras to escargot when we weren’t too busy climbing Monmartre, getting lost in the Louvre or picnicking in the French gardens.

By the time it came to get on the plane again and say goodbye with hugs and kisses and tears- I knew it wouldn’t be the last time I saw these wonderful people. I had become an international citizen that year, we all had. The world was going to be ours from now on; borders, oceans, cultural differences and language barriers now irrelevant.

KorabEland

Summer 2012
Internships Abroad
London, England

My journey abroad began with a sudden realization: The 2012 Summer Olympic games were going to be held in London. I’ve always been a huge fan of athletics, and mix that with my desire to study abroad and the recommendations from my friends who had been through the same program, and I was hooked. Looking back, I had no idea what London was like and doubted my ability to afford such an expensive summer. But, I kept telling myself that I NEEDED this experience and that, no matter how much it would cost, I would make sure I made it happen.

Pushing yourself to your personal limits is daunting, and quite honestly I was nervous about whether I had what it takes to leave my family and the life I had led for so long. But I will tell you right now, the most important thing I learned about myself and from this experience was this: Never let fear control your life. As soon as you let yourself go and leave your fears behind, there is nothing you can’t do.

As the departure date approached, I got through all of the paper work and went to the early morning meetings that were supposed to prepare me for this new, radical experience. One of the key things that helped me during my trip was understanding the topic of culture shock and what you should expect from it. Culture shock is very real; I know because I went through it. But, as I said before, it is not something you should be afraid of. Some of the shock I experienced was simply because of the lifestyle change. I grew up in Kansas; I’ve lived in Kansas my whole life, so when I found myself in the middle of a city with a population of 12 million people it was quite the “shock”. All I could do was laugh it off when I didn’t always understand the nuances of British English, or got lost on the subway. Culture shock is stressful because it forces you to change yourself and adjust to something new and different. The only advice I can give is to just let it happen, be open to it, and use that time of transition to change yourself for the better.



So, why is London such an amazing place to study abroad? Let me preface this by saying that I truly believe that London is the greatest city in the world. Not just because I spent a lot of time there (I travelled to Paris, Prague, Amsterdam, and Edinburgh as well) but because London is a world city. As part of the program, we were required to take a class about London’s culture and how it became the city it is today. Now remember, before this class I had no idea what London was like. When I thought about London, I thought about things like double decker busses, Big Ben, and even Harry Potter. What I learned in class fascinated me. London is a global city, which means that there are people from all over the world that live there. For example, there are parts of the city where in one small area there are over 100 different languages being spoken. So, why is the fact that it is a global city so awesome? It means that you can find any kind of person, any kind of food, and any kind of culture, all in one city. But how does that help you and why does it make London the best place to study abroad? It’s because London forces you to be yourself. It surrounds you with everything the world has to give and it shows you what you can be, and more importantly, helps you become the person you WANT to be. London changed my life, and it can change yours too, if you let it.

EmilyFiske

Spring 2012
Semester at Sea

“I want to see the world,” I thought to myself. I want to float on the Amazon River, I want to see a lion in the wild, I want to save a life, gaze at the Taj Mahal and skip through China’s rice terraces. Through the University of Kansas’s study abroad program, I was able to experience this all during the Spring 2012 voyage on Semester at Sea. My name is Emily Fiske and I saw the world through my own eyes.

As I stood on the top deck of the MV Explorer waving goodbye to my life in the United States, I could hardly imagine the experience I was about to experience—11 countries in 105 days; Bahamas, Dominica, Brazil, Ghana, South Africa, Mauritius, India, Singapore, Vietnam, China, Japan, here I go! I went on Semester at Sea as a journalism student, the only student from KU, not knowing a soul. That quickly changed as the dinner conversations switched from Snooki and JWow to foreign affairs and world hunger.

Each country I visited touched my heart in a different way, but my experience in Ghana will forever change my way of thinking. My time in Ghana was spent in a small village called Senase, where I participated in a “home stay.” While I was there, I played soccer with the children, learned local dances, learned how to cook the way my hosts do and visited a local school. When I visited the school, I couldn’t believe my eyes. The poverty and condition of the children blew my mind. As I stepped out of the car, I was swarmed by the children, who had never seen a white face in their entire life. To my dismay, a large percentage of the children were starving, none of them had access to fresh water and many of them were ill. After a long conversation with the locals, I learned that the women of the Senase village were walking nearly three hours a day for fresh water because their local well was broken. When I returned to my host family, I did some quick research to learn how much it would cost to fix the well. I learned it would be \$150 American dollars to fix the water well, which serves the entire village. That’s it...\$150 to provide water to a village that had



none. Immediately I asked a group of fellow students if they were willing to pay \$5 each. Just like that, we watched the repair man fix the well—and the village gathered to drink. My heart filled with joy.

The lack of fresh water, along with so many other struggles to survive in Ghana is the foundation for my desire to make a difference. I know I can’t end poverty, I can’t build a village or feed the country for an extended period of time, but I can stand as a voice for the people who suffer. I have always known how privileged I am and how many resources I have access to, but what I didn’t realize is how much other people don’t have. Despite the poverty this village endures, they are some of the happiest and friendliest people I have ever met. How so? In today’s society it is so easy to get upset when something goes wrong, but to the people I met in Ghana, every day is a good day. Studying abroad caused me to re-evaluate what’s important in life and has forever changed how I respond when it just doesn’t go my way.

The things I learned, the people I met and the things I felt during my time abroad will forever change my life. Thanks to KU’s study abroad program, I see myself as a global citizen and will never again take for granted how privileged I am to live in the United States.

[For more information, visit: www.thesenaseproject.org/](http://www.thesenaseproject.org/)