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THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF BETA GAMMA SIGMA

MAY
2019

new Horizons

The Impact of Traveling Abroad

PAGE 6 | SHORT-TERM VS. LONG-TERM PROGRAMS

PAGE 8 | A YEAR OF WORKING ABROAD

PAGE 26 | THE NEW WAY TO STUDY ABROAD

Earn your MBA or business master's degree at America's most innovative university.

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#6 Online Graduate Business Programs

#6 Online MBA Programs

#29 Full-time MBA Programs

A MESSAGE FROM
THE BOARD CHAIR

This issue of *HONORS* takes a look at the value of international experience.

As dean of the Smeal College of Business at The Pennsylvania State University, **I understand how important it is for students to develop a global mindset.**

That's why Smeal's MBA program includes an international immersion experience. In fact, you'll find that many AACSB-accredited business schools make studying abroad a critical component of their undergraduate and MBA degree programs.



Another school that embraces international business is Maastricht University in The Netherlands—the school from which my colleague and fellow board member Marielle Heijltjes, hails. The school is home to a network of more than 140 exchange programs internationally, and 40 percent of their students and faculty come from outside their country. Marielle heads up Maastricht's continuing business education branch, UMIO, and is also a professor of managerial behavior.

In June of this year, my term as chairman of Beta Gamma Sigma's board of governors will end, and the board will be in Marielle's very capable hands. To learn more about her, I encourage you to read her profile on page 12, as her background and experience is a testament to the importance and value of a global mindset in today's world.

It's been a pleasure serving the BGS board of governors, and I look forward to continuing my partnership with BGS as a board member and as a member of the board's executive committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Charles H. Whiteman".

Charles H. Whiteman
Chairman, BGS Board of Governors
John and Becky Surma Dean, Smeal College of Business
The Pennsylvania State University

IN THIS ISSUE

- 4** Slovakia and Beyond
How a 3-week program changed Jeremy Miller's life.
- 6** One Week or One Year?
Differences between short-term and long-term study abroad trips
- 8** Making "Someday" Today
Heidi Liedtke spends a year working abroad
- 15** Guide to Traveling Abroad
Frequently Asked Questions
BGS Travelers
Study Abroad Programs
- 24** Making Time For Peace
How one college senior is putting off career plans to serve others.
- 26** The New Study Abroad
Emily Lundquist explores how study abroad programs are no longer an excuse to go on vacation.

• • • • •

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 10** MEET THE DEAN
Reto Steiner, *Dean of the ZHAW School of Management and Law, Zurich-Winterthur, Switzerland*
- 12** MEET THE BOARD
Marielle Heijltjes, *Executive Director and Professor of Managerial Behavior, UMIO Maastricht University*
- 31** DONOR LISTING
- 38** THE BGS SNAPSHOT

A MESSAGE
FROM THE CEO

Beta Gamma Sigma is the global honor society serving higher education business programs throughout the world. BGS is the oldest international business honor society, and it's the only one accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International). Since its founding in 1913, BGS had inducted more than 830,000 lifetime members in 50 states and 190 countries. These members serve in management and leadership roles in academic, corporate, government, nonprofit, and professional service sectors. Beta Gamma Sigma has more than 600 collegiate chapters around the world, as well as 45 alumni chapters and networking groups in 15 countries. For more information, visit betagammasigma.org.

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The world is getting smaller every day, thanks to globalization.

Businesses are now deeply interconnected with the rest of the world, and today's leaders need be able to **communicate and collaborate effectively with people from all walks of life.**

An excellent way to learn how to work with people from other cultures is to study abroad. No matter if you go for a week or a year (or both, like our writer Kelsie Eckert), you'll learn so much about the world, and yourself—as long as you approach it with an open mind.

The **Global Leadership Summit** offers many opportunities to meet and network with people from a variety of backgrounds—for example, last year's event was attended by students from 192 schools in 19 countries.

The theme of this year's GLS is *The Future of Work*, and we will discuss many of the challenges facing the business industry—from **preparing for the challenges of globalization** to **future-proofing your career** for jobs that haven't been invented yet.

Since globalization will play a large part in *The Future of Work*, **experience abroad has become an essential part of business education** (as you'll read about in our feature story on page 26). And as airline technology improves, traveling to the other side of the world may one day be as easy as catching a city bus or train.

If you can't make it to the 2019 GLS, I hope you'll make it a point to travel somewhere this year. The value of these experiences is beyond measure.



Chris Carosella
Chief Executive Officer, Beta Gamma Sigma

Studying Abroad: By The Numbers



More than **300,000 US students** study abroad each year. (That's only 1.5% of the US population.)

97% of students who have studied abroad found employment within 12 months of graduation



25% higher starting salaries

90% got into their 1st or 2nd choice grad school



80% reported that it allowed them to better adapt to a diverse work environment

59% of employers said study abroad experience would be valuable in that individual's career



19% lower unemployment rates found among those who studied abroad



Top 5 Study Abroad Destinations



1. Italy



2. Spain



3. UK



4. France



5. Germany

5 of the top ten best study abroad programs also have BGS chapters



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EVANSVILLE

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COLLEGE



WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY



BUTLER
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Carleton

Slovakia and Beyond

By Jeremy Miller, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse

How a 3-week
program changed
my life (*and my career*)

I won't be the first to say this, but going into college I had no interest in studying abroad. In fact, the thought of being that far from home frightened me. It wasn't until my junior year at University of Wisconsin–La Crosse (UWL), when my professor announced a consulting program in Slovakia that I was instantly intrigued.

Why was I intrigued? For a number of reasons. I already had consulting experience, and I knew the program would challenge me to step outside my comfort zone (literally!) and grow as a person. On top of that, I have ancestors from Slovakia; I've always wanted to go there and see where my family lived many years ago.

I didn't think it was economically feasible for me to go; while my parents helped me pay for groceries, I had to take out loans to pay for my tuition. I had no desire to amplify my debt, and I didn't think my parents would approve of me traveling abroad anyway.

I decided to go to an information meeting about the program. The consulting program, offered in partnership with Dell, pairs UWL students with Slovak students to develop long-term and short-term marketing strategies for Dell's clients. Even better, it turned out that the program was only as expensive as a credit would normally be at UWL. When I called my parents and told them about it, they were so encouraging and supportive. It felt like the moment when a little kid's parents finally buy them the toy they wanted—that's how excited I was!

Since the program was a month long over the summer, my friend and I decided to travel to London, Budapest, and Vienna before our program started. On the day I was set to leave, I was a nervous wreck, frantically checking to make sure I wasn't forgetting anything.

Landing in London was incredibly surreal; it was hard to believe I was standing in a place I've only dreamt about and seen in the movies! And I quickly realized that some of my perceptions of people in other countries were way off. For example, I expected everyone to be so different from me, but that wasn't the case at all. (Granted, starting my trip in an English-speaking country made the transition easier—at least I could communicate!) I also believed that most countries don't like U.S. citizens. I couldn't have been more wrong; everyone was friendly and helpful, and they accepted me for who I was.

The consulting program itself was also difficult. (Yes, I hate to tell you, but school was challenging over there too.) But this wasn't just a regular class—it was a job. Because the students from Slovakia didn't have prior experience in consulting, I had to explain things a little more. I also realized that they had learned some concepts differently than I did. But that was one of the main reasons I found this program so rewarding: it taught me how to work on a team with people who have totally different experiences and backgrounds from me and, and it allowed me to learn from them.

When we weren't working, we made it a point to get out and have some fun. Besides the usual touristy activities, one Slovak student introduced me to a high-speed go-kart track. Driving that fast was a bit frightening at first, but it was exhilarating.

We also took the Slovak students on a weekend camping trip, which is a program tradition. We stayed in cabins and spent hours around the campfire, and we even taught them how to make s'mores. I'll never forget the joy on their faces as they bit into them.

Adjusting to the culture wasn't always easy. It took a lot of missed buses and near-missed trains for me to finally figure out transportation. And in Eastern Europe, the language barrier made it even more difficult to adapt. I tried to embrace the challenge by learning some basic Slovak phrases, (aka survival phrases), and that definitely helped. And ultimately, dealing with challenges like these was one of the main reasons I chose to go. I wanted to be challenged and pushed outside my comfort zone, and I definitely got it!

Studying abroad is the single best thing I have done in my life. Professionally it has opened up many opportunities that I never thought were possible. Since completing my program, I was accepted for an international internship, and I worked a mentor at the 2018 Global Leadership Summit. And it helped me realize that I want to become an expatriate someday and travel internationally for my future occupation.

My experience abroad helped me realize who I really am as a person. Going on solo trips forced me to get out of my comfort zone and interact with people from all over the world, and I made so many friends along the way.

Studying abroad may seem a little frightening, but in the end the rewards you gain from the experience outweigh the hardships you may face.



One week or One year?

By Kelsie Eckert

Differences Between Short-Term and Long-Term Study Abroad Trips

Someone once told me that the best part of experiencing more than one culture is that you choose your favorite stories and lessons from each and carry them with you.

Because I earned degrees in both international business and French (from Saint Louis University), my undergrad education was heavily focused on areas outside the United States—and I was fortunate enough to complete two separate study abroad programs.

I spent my junior year in Lyon, France; in my senior year, I completed a weeklong consulting project in Budapest, Hungary. Both of these trips were rewarding, and the various objectives and durations allowed me to see other cultures from different perspectives.

Here are the notable distinctions I found between my long-term and short-term study abroad experiences.

1. MY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

My year in Lyon was considered a language immersion program; the goal was to become truly absorbed in the culture of France. On the other hand, my week in Budapest was part of a course through the business school, so I was there to learn from the global businesses I visited and provide consulting feedback.

2. AMOUNT OF STRUCTURED VS. UNSTRUCTURED TIME

I (obviously) had more time to myself in Lyon. I could spend quiet Saturday afternoons in a café or walk through a park during my lunch break, and simply observe the city and the people around me. I even took a job as an English assistant in a middle school, where I got to experience the French education system and bond with the teachers and children there. I had my routine of school, work, and hanging out with friends, so I quickly began to feel like I was at home in Lyon.

In Budapest, my schedule was packed with company visits, tours, and consulting. Even mealtimes were planned for me. Since my group only had a week abroad, when I did have free time to explore, I tried to see and do as much as possible. It was a very exciting and fast-paced week, compared to my more relaxed and leisurely weeks in France.

3. WHO I MET, AND HOW I MET THEM

The groups of people I interacted with also varied between programs. While in Lyon, I lived with a host family. I shared meals, celebrated holidays and birthdays, and experienced family life with them. They became like a second family to me.

Besides my host family in France, I also made friends with other students from around the world. Sharing classes with students from so many different countries was a true cultural exchange, and I learned a lot from them. I also learned how challenging it is to be an international student navigating a new school system, and I relied a lot on my fellow international students to be successful.

Because my Budapest trip was so structured, I became very close to the other students in my class, but we didn't have many opportunities to branch out and see the sights or meet local people. We stayed in a flat that week, and we didn't really learn any Hungarian—the language is very difficult, and we learned that most people we met spoke English, and they aren't offended if you don't know their language.

While I advocate traveling as much as possible, I know that's sometimes not feasible. I would still encourage everyone to look for opportunities to go abroad, regardless of the length of time. No matter where you go, there is always something exciting to see, something new to learn, and a culture to experience—go out and find the memories to carry with you.



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Making "Someday" Today

By Heidi Liedtke

A Year of Working Abroad



Heidi and a few fellow "remotes" hiking Humantay Lake, a turquoise lagoon in the mountains outside Cusco, Peru.

I always thought traveling for an extended time would require quitting my job, or taking a stab at travel blogging. But here I write from a café in Medellín, Colombia, drinking an espresso, still fully employed. Over this year, I'm making my way from Lima, Peru to Cape Town, South Africa, and stopping in ten other countries along the way—and it's thanks to a program called Remote Year.

Remote Year is a company that facilitates travel for working professionals, bringing them to a new city every month for either four or twelve months. You bring the job and Remote Year provides flight arrangements, accommodations, co-working space, local events, and a community of 40 to 50 people that share the experience alongside you. They take the legwork out of the nomadic lifestyle, allowing travelers to focus on other priorities. With three years under its belt, Remote Year has already launched 36 of these traveling communities for more than

1,500 participants. My itinerary, named for the late chef and travel writer Anthony Bourdain, hops around Latin America, East Asia, Europe, and Africa throughout the entirety of 2019.

Six months before departing, I was living a happy and comfortable life in Washington, D.C. I'd heard of Remote Year, and the idea had been in the back of my mind as a "maybe someday" thing I would do when the timing was right. Then one morning while walking to work, I realized my routine was set so deep that I knew the exact length of each crosswalk on my route. I longed for something different, an opportunity to grow outside my comfort zone. Then Remote Year resurfaced.

For the rest of my walk, I tried to talk myself out of it.

"Could I take my work remote?"

Several other people in my office work remotely.

“What about time zones?”

I work for an international company, and most of what I do is time zone agnostic.

“Okay, but what about finances? It’s not exactly cheap.”

I am a good budgeter, and it’s only a few hundred more than the cost of living in D.C.

I walked through every scenario and in each, I could not think of a solid reason not to try. Why wait for someday? That night I scheduled a call with a Remote Year consultant and two months later, I put down the deposit.

Now, I am five weeks into my year and I’ve already pushed my physical, mental, and emotional limits—and I feel like I’ve made more memories than all of last year. I hiked Machu Picchu and Rainbow Mountain, I rode dune buggies in Huacachina, and I built a home for a family in need; I also learned basic Spanish, tasted ten exotic fruits, and made 45 new friends.

To outsiders, it may seem like this is a yearlong vacation. But what’s not visible on my Instagram are the nights I worked until 11 pm at the coworking space, a hospital visit in Lima, or the evenings I stayed in and watched Netflix. Life still happens; everything that occurs in a year at home also happens during a year abroad. We get sick, miss home, lose loved ones, work hard, and celebrate birthdays.

What I’ve gained is a deeper appreciation for my time; there’s more pressure to make the most out of each day, and not let time pass by unnoticed. When you’re living for the weekend, you’re neglecting 70% of your opportunities to create memories, conquer challenges, learn new things, and ultimately become the best version of yourself. Thanks to my experiences abroad, I believe I am a more flexible and open-minded person (I think!). I live in the moment and I seek opportunities to challenge my perspective and self-awareness. I prioritize my well-being, and I value my loved ones more than ever before.

Out of everything so far, my community has surprised me the most; While it’s possible—and cheaper—to travel independently, companies like Remote Year offer a group of travel companions

to share your experiences with. My group of about 45 “remotes” descend from eight countries and range from 24 to 71 years old. Each person brings unique perspectives, skills, and interests. Our community is almost like a family; we support one another when we’re down and we challenge each other to push farther. And the bonus? Someone is always there to join a museum tour or go scuba diving.

If the digital nomad lifestyle is a potential fit for you, don’t wait for your “someday;” go out and do it! The days of quitting our jobs are behind us.

Questions? Message me on Instagram @hii_heidi.



Rainbow Mountain, Peru - Snuggling baby alpacas at 17,000 feet above sea level.



Incredible views at Macchu Picchu after an eight-hour hike on the Inca trail.

MEET THE DEAN



RETO STEINER,

Dean of the ZHAW School of
Management and Law, Zurich-
Winterthur, Switzerland

◆ TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR BACKGROUND.

While studying management and law at the University of Bern (Switzerland), I became interested in public management as a possible career path. At the same time, the methodological aspects of how to generate new research findings fascinated me. I wanted to combine these two interests. That's why I decided to study for my Ph.D. right after completing my master's program.

At the same time, I started to get involved in politics by becoming the elected president of the parliament of the city where I'd grown up, and as a member of the parliament of my home canton (state). After completing my Ph.D., I became a lecturer and then, after a few years, an assistant professor at the University of Bern. I have spent guest semesters at the Vienna University of Economics and Business, the National University of Singapore, and the University of Hong Kong. I was also a professor at the Free University of Bolzano in Italy.

Two years ago, the University Council elected me Dean of the School of Management and Law (SML) at Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW). The SML is the second largest business school in Switzerland.

◆ THE SML MOTTO READS, "BUILDING COMPETENCE. CROSSING BORDERS." WHY IS THIS GLOBAL MINDSET SO IMPORTANT?

For a small country like Switzerland, being open and having an active exchange with other countries and economies is vital. Only an open country is a prosperous country. In the 19th century, many Swiss immigrated to the US; today, we welcome people from other cultures to Switzerland. We want to provide our students and researchers with an environment that promotes such a global mindset in the knowledge society and beyond.

◆ THE FACT THAT THE SML HAS ESTABLISHED PARTNERSHIPS WITH MORE THAN 170 UNIVERSITIES WORLDWIDE REFLECTS THIS COMMITMENT. HOW DOES ZHAW ENCOURAGE/PROMOTE A GLOBAL MINDSET IN ALL ITS STUDENTS?

One-third of our classes are already held in English, enabling both lecturers and students from other countries to work and study here.

In addition, we expect our researchers to engage in research that deserves international recognition and to present their findings at conferences and to internationally active companies.

I'm particularly proud that the SML is part of the Champions Group of PRME (Principles for Responsible Management Education) of the U.N. We want to deliver sustainable management education and provide training to companies that helps them to contribute to a better society.

◆ THIS ISSUE OF HONORS MAGAZINE IS FOCUSED ON THE VALUE OF STUDYING (AND WORKING) ABROAD. HOW CAN THESE TYPES OF EXPERIENCES AFFECT ONE'S CAREER OR GENERAL WORLDVIEW?

A well-known proverb says to walk a mile in someone else's shoes before judging them. I believe that students and researchers who have lived and worked in another country for a while will be able to judge the culture and ways of life in their temporary homeland quite differently. This knowledge is essential to succeed as a leader in an internationally oriented company. In addition, such people are also valuable citizens because they have a more complex view of the world and can thus contribute to solving the important problems of their countries. Travel is a form of "bench learning" that enables us to learn from and with others.

◆ THINKING ABOUT BGS MEMBERS WHO ARE ALREADY ESTABLISHED IN THEIR CAREERS: HOW CAN THEY INCREASE THEIR GLOBAL AWARENESS AND EMBRACE THIS SHIFT?

I think you only really understand a country if you have lived there for a while. I would even encourage people who are already working to consider whether a stay abroad might help them strengthen their profile. This can also be inspiring for the whole family; you don't have to be twenty-something, carefree, and single. I experienced this myself when I was a guest professor at the National University of Singapore. For my daughter, who was four at the time, our stay was both exciting and educational. Even today, as a nine-year-old, Singapore is her favorite destination when we go overseas and, surprisingly, she still has memories of those days.

MEET THE BOARD



Marielle Heijltjes
Executive Director and Professor of Managerial Behavior,
UMIO Maastricht University

The daughter of a Dutch Royal Airforce officer, Marielle Heijltjes grew up in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. As a result, she learned to speak four languages before she got to college: Dutch, English, German and French. She earned her M.Sc. and Ph.D. at Maastricht University, and now serves as a professor and the executive director of UMIO Maastricht University, the professional development branch of its business school.

Heijltjes has been on BGS' Board of Governors for the last five years and will be taking over as board chair this year.

◆ IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN WORKING IN HIGHER EDUCATION, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, FOR YOUR ENTIRE CAREER. DID YOU ALWAYS KNOW YOU WANTED TO BE A PROFESSOR?

No, not at all. When I was a student my ambition was to work in business. Quite frankly I ended up in academia by just following opportunities that I found most interesting (and then of course executing them well!). And the funny thing is that

my interest in academia started while doing an internship ... I found the work interesting and learned a lot about the business world, but I was at the same time a bit disappointed on what new recruits with a master's degree could actually do to employ all they had learned.

During my PhD, I found out that I really like teaching. So today, my roles combine both teaching and development of postgraduate executive master programs, as well as customized programs for organizations.

◆ YOUR EXPERTISE IS IN MANAGERIAL BEHAVIOR—WHY IS THAT SUCH A COMPELLING TOPIC FOR YOU?

It is such a compelling topic because managers and leaders have such an important role in shaping the daily context that people work and live in. Within an organization, their behavior can make a workplace in which people are motivated, able to learn and perform in a positive, respectful climate—or a workplace in which people are afraid, feel confined and execute their duties in a negative and suffocating atmosphere.

At the same time, many people taking on a managerial position or stepping into a leader role are often not aware of the impact that they have, so I see it as a very important part of my job to help create this awareness. And awareness of impact should not be confined to their own team or organization, as I do think that managers and leaders also have a responsibility to consider their impact towards society: what is it that their decisions and actions help create?

◆ HOW HAVE YOU SEEN GLOBALIZATION CHANGING HOW WE DO BUSINESS TODAY?

The most prevalent change has been the inescapable notion of interconnectedness on a global scale: in an economic sense (if something happens on the NYSE, it will also affect companies operating in Europe and/or Asia), in a social sense (with consumer preferences converging—with global brands like Apple and Samsung), and in a political sense (for example, a decision by one country to install trade barriers affects firms all over the globe).

The notion of interconnectedness implies that everybody has to have a much more open eye for what is happening in the different parts of the world and develop an understanding of how that might affect them. Perspective-taking thus becomes a very important skill.

◆ DID YOU EVER STUDY ABROAD WHEN YOU WERE IN COLLEGE? IF SO, TELL ME A LITTLE ABOUT HOW IT AFFECTED YOU.

Yes I did, and it was still quite unusual at the time. Besides my three-month internship (at Dow Chemical in Michigan), I was an exchange student in the MBA program at Indiana University in Bloomington in 1989. Both were great learning experiences.

“**GETTING IN TOUCH WITH PEOPLE FROM OTHER CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS TRULY ENHANCED MY UNDERSTANDING OF DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES.** - Marielle Heijltjes

Studying and living abroad helped me, for example, become aware of many of the unconscious assumptions I had been making about what is right and wrong, how to live your life, how to relate to others, etc. Getting in touch with people from other cultural backgrounds truly enhanced my understanding of different perspectives. In addition, it taught me a lot about compassion—everybody seeks certain basic human values such as being heard, being seen or being taken seriously.

◆ WHY DO YOU THINK AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE IS SO IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE TODAY?

In an interconnected world with large universal challenges (such as the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals), you can no longer afford to retreat to your own national context; sustainable progress can only be made if international collaboration takes place.

◆ IS A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE ONLY IMPORTANT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE JUST STARTING THEIR CAREERS, OR CAN EVERYONE BENEFIT FROM EXPERIENCE ABROAD?

Of course, everyone can benefit from experience abroad, as long as you consider the mindset and attitude that you go with. To truly learn from the experience, you will have to do it with an open mind. And that means that once you start judging a difference that you perceive, you become aware of that judgment and defer it and instead remain curious about what you are seeing, hearing, feeling and thinking. That sounds easy but in fact takes a lot of conscious effort!

◆ HOW CAN SOMEONE WHO'S ESTABLISHED IN THEIR CAREER GAIN INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE? DO THEY NEED TO LEAVE THEIR JOB TO DO IT?

No, of course you do not have to leave your job! You can gain international experience in many different ways nowadays and would not even have to leave your house or office to do so! For example, enrolling in an online course that has international participants who need to collaborate on assignments is one way that would not require travel—or even relatively simple things as actively engaging with the world news, learning another language or engaging with international communities in your home town.



Marielle speaks about courageous leadership to students at BGS' 2018 Global Leadership Summit in Chicago.

◆ **YOU'VE BEEN ON BETA GAMMA SIGMA'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR YEARS, AND YOU'LL SOON BE TAKING THE REIGNS AS OUR NEW BOARD CHAIR. ARE YOU EXCITED FOR THE OPPORTUNITY?**

I am very excited and also very honored to do so. BGS is a fantastic organization that not only recognizes academic achievement but also emphasizes leadership development and international connection. It enables its members to develop leadership skills so an awareness of responsibilities and impact as leaders can be created and it enables its members to connect to a global network. I truly believe that this combination of achievement, leadership development and international outlook will help build the responsible leaders of the future. And who would not want to contribute to that!



EVERYONE CAN BENEFIT FROM EXPERIENCE ABROAD, AS LONG AS YOU CONSIDER THE MINDSET AND ATTITUDE THAT YOU GO WITH.

- Marielle Heijltjes

◆ **WHAT'S ONE FACT OR PIECE OF ADVICE YOU'D LIKE BGS MEMBERS TO KNOW?**

I would like to end with my favorite quote from the Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard: To dare is to lose one's footing momentarily, to not dare is to lose oneself.

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Guide to Traveling Abroad

It doesn't matter who you are or where you live: traveling, on your own, to an unfamiliar part of the globe sounds daunting at first.

Maybe you don't know where you want to go, or which program to choose. Maybe you're worried about paying for it, or you don't see how you'd benefit from a program abroad. You may already have a great job, and you don't want to leave it so you can travel the world. But before you write it off, check out this BGS member guide to international travel.

Inside this guide, you'll find:

- Answers to some of the most common questions about studying abroad
- Tips for saving up and paying for a trip
- Information about a few travel organizations—some of which offer discounts or scholarships to BGS members
- Stories from students and young professionals who have gone abroad—and have seen their lives transform as a result

Whether you have one question or many, start your research right here.





Studying Abroad:

By Matt Plodzien

Frequently Asked Questions

WHY SHOULD I GO ABROAD?

Studying and living abroad is an experience you will remember for the rest of your life. It will also provide benefits that last far beyond the classroom. You will have the ability

to learn and practice a new language on a daily basis. You will come to understand new cultures, ideas and customs. You will be able to create friendships that go beyond borders. And future employers will see your international experience as a critical asset.

WHERE SHOULD I STUDY ABROAD?

Start by asking yourself about what places in the world interest you most. Do you want to work on your language skills? Live in a big city? Get back to nature? Learn from a prestigious university? Find your reason, whatever it may be, and research your options to make your study abroad dream come true.

HOW DO I CONVINCE MY PARENTS TO LET ME GO?

Before even posing the question to your parents, it would be a good idea to do your research about the program you wish to attend. This way you are prepared to answer their inevitable long list of questions. Remind them about its overall benefit to your perspective on the world; its ability to aid you in your future career; and the educational opportunities you may find that exceed what your university offers.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Take a deep breath. The average cost of a *full semester abroad* is around \$14,000. To put that in perspective: in the United States, the average cost of a semester of college tuition is between \$10,000 and \$25,000. *And if you go for a shorter trip, the cost will be much lower.*

Research is key here, too; keep in mind that your cost of living in a large city like Paris will likely be higher than smaller cities. On the other hand, if it's hard to travel to, it could push the overall cost much higher.

WHAT STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM SHOULD I CHOOSE?

Beyond just your geographical interests, the program you choose should also speak to you. Do you want classes with only people from your home country? Work on your specific major? Want more hands-on experience? There are plenty of options to find a program that matches your goals. Compare the programs offered in your desired locations to determine which matches your interests the most.

DO I HAVE TO COMMIT TO A FULL SEMESTER?

Not at all. In your research, you'll likely find programs that last anywhere from a couple weeks up to a year. (Check out the other articles in this issue for a better look at how your experience may be different, depending on the length of your trip.)

HOW WILL THIS BENEFIT MY FUTURE CAREER?

Studying abroad has many benefits that affect not only your personal life but also your future career.

First, it gives you invaluable experience in practicing a foreign language. Even if you do not become fluent during your time abroad, your overall communication skills will flourish. You'll be able to understand and appreciate nonverbal communication methods as a way to cope with the language barrier. These cross-cultural communication skills will help you in your future career as you may end up traveling or meeting with people from different countries.

Being abroad places you outside your comfort zone and forces you to deal with unfamiliar situations. This can aid in your decision-making skills, planning and organization—all skills that will be desirable for employers.

Finally, studying abroad gives you the chance to live on your own. As you gain more self-sufficiency you'll revel in your independence. You'll learn to overcome challenges yourself and become a stronger person for it.



HOW WILL I PAY FOR A TRIP ABROAD?

By Tiffany Leong

Even if you don't have extra money lying around, here are a few ways to pay for your travels abroad.

SAVE UP

Plan ahead, stick to a budget, and open a dedicated savings account to track your progress.

GET A JOB

Get a part-time job or a paid internship, or take on some freelance work if you can. Just make sure it won't interfere with your ability to complete your schoolwork.

APPLY FOR ALL THE SCHOLARSHIPS

Find out if you can use your academic scholarships to pay for study abroad trips. In addition, many independent programs offer them for students with high GPAs. (BGS members are eligible for exclusive scholarships with our partner organizations.)

EMBRACE CROWDFUNDING

Create a campaign on a crowdfunding site and share it with everyone you know: social media contacts, friends, family, neighbors, professors, etc.

SELL YOUR OLD TEXTBOOKS (AND ANYTHING ELSE YOU DON'T NEED).

Have you picked up a hobby or instrument that you never got around to mastering? Sell it, along with any clothes you don't wear (or that don't fit you) and you can make a dent in that travel fund.

The bottom line is this: if you really want to study abroad, get creative and do lots of research. You will likely find a way.

BGS Travelers



Emily Lundquist

What do you do? I'm on the corporate strategic marketing team at L'Oreal USA.

What city/country did you go to? Santiago, Chile; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Lima, Peru

How has the experience prepared you for a successful career in a global landscape? The trip reignited my interest in international business, and I'm fortunate to work for a global company that has operations in over 130 countries. I have my heart set on moving with the group to Mexico City, which is home to L'Oreal's Latin American headquarters.

What do you miss from your trip abroad? The language – I studied Spanish in college and lived in Madrid for a semester (my first study abroad experience), and it was wonderful to again be immersed in a language I love (with some beautiful Portuguese for good measure).

What advice would you give people who are considering studying abroad? Do it. And if you go, do so with an open mind and a humble spirit – an international experience can broaden your perspective, enrich your cross-cultural sensitivity, and deepen your appreciation for diverse viewpoints and ways of life if you let it. Our default is to be U.S.-centric; going abroad can serve as a critical reminder to be a global citizen first and foremost.



Pooja Shah

What do you do? I am currently a senior at Monmouth University majoring in accounting.

What city/country did you go to? Florence, Italy

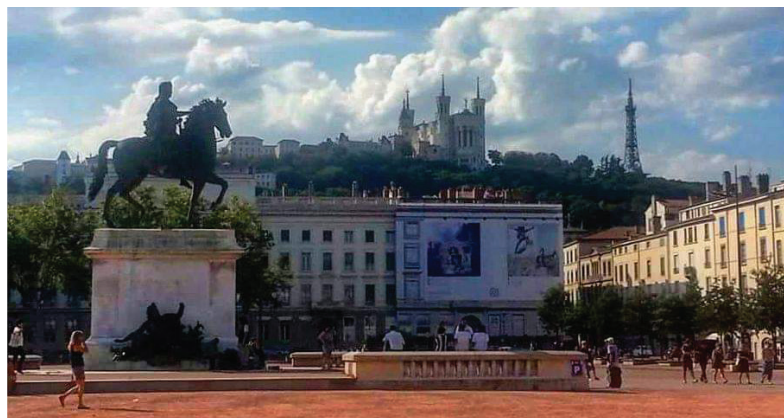
What did you learn from the experience? I learned a lot about myself and was able to take away a lot from the relaxed culture of Italy. I am the type of person who loves their routine and a full schedule. However, going abroad made me realize how important it is to truly enjoy every bit of our day. This is something that is instilled in Italian culture. I learned to enjoy the day to day functions of life from food, to sitting

down and having my morning coffee, to chatting with locals, taking random strolls through the city, exploring new places, and so much more!

I also learned that I have a passion for traveling. I've always found a piece of home wherever I go. Each and every place I travel to has me mesmerized with what the world has to offer.

How has the experience prepared you for a successful career in a global landscape? This experience has made me more receptive, open, and understanding of different cultures and ideas. Having this better understanding will help me bridge cultural gaps when working with people from different countries. Our world is so diverse, and it is crucial in any career to understand that not everyone thinks the same.

BGS Travelers



Kelsie Eckert

What do you do? Global Supply Chain Rotational Employee at Bayer Crop Science

What city/country did you go to? Lyon, France

What did you learn from the experience? I wasn't completely fluent in French, so I had to learn how to communicate even when I didn't know a word or phrase. It was challenging to convey exactly what I was feeling or needed. Since I sometimes struggled to express myself fully, I had to learn how to connect with people beyond the language barrier.

What was the funniest moment? A friend and I rented bikes on a weekend trip to ride along the Loire Valley. We took the wrong trail and ended up lost in the French countryside. We had to navigate back with spotty GPS service that took us through a forest trail that was so overgrown we had to walk the bikes through most of it. The ride was supposed to be 2 hours, but it took us 4. It was simultaneously exhausting, scary, and funny. Now I can look back at that adventure and just laugh.

What advice would you give people who are considering studying abroad? Don't be afraid to push yourself outside your comfort zone. It's perfectly normal to feel anxious or scared about studying abroad, but don't let that stop you. You won't know what you're missing until you go out into the world to find it.

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Travel Abroad Programs

THE INTERN GROUP

Program type: Intern abroad

Claim to fame: Provides customized international internship programs around the globe, focused on both professional development and cultural immersion.

Length of terms: 4 to 6 weeks

Locations: Choose from more than a dozen cities around the world, including London, Tokyo, Madrid, Toronto and Bangkok.

Activities/Purpose: Professional experience, personal growth and development, cultural immersion

Cost: Between \$3,000 and \$12,000
(see website for more details)

Scholarships or discounts available for BGS members?
Both discounts and scholarships

College credit available? Maybe, depending on your university—their staff is available to help

Application Deadline(s): Rolling deadlines

Website: theinterngroup.com

COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE (CIEE)

Program type: Study abroad, intern abroad, teach abroad

Claim to fame: Pairing global work experience with a strong academic framework

Length of terms: 6 weeks to 14 weeks

Locations: Worldwide

Activities/Purpose: Internships, education, tourism

Cost: \$5,000 – \$20,000 (depending on your program, location, airfare and other expenses)

Scholarships or discounts available for BGS members? No

College credit available? Yes

Application Deadline(s): Varies

Website: ciee.org

REMOTE YEAR

Program type: Work and travel abroad

Claim to fame: Remote Year curates work and travel programs for professionals to work remotely as part of a community from different cities around the world without having to quit their jobs.

Length of terms: Choose from 4-month or 12-month itineraries

Locations: Worldwide

Activities/Purpose: Work, tourism

Cost: \$3,000 to \$5,000 up front, plus monthly payments starting around \$2,000 per month of your trip

Scholarships or discounts available for BGS members?
No

College credit available? No

Application Deadline(s): Varies

Website: remoteyear.com

UNITED PLANET

Program type: Volunteer abroad

Claim to fame: Authentic, immersive experiences designed for people who want to make a difference in the world.

Length of terms: Short-Term Quests: 1 week to 3 months
Long-Term Quests: 6 months or 1 year

Locations: For short-term: choose from one of 10 countries in Central America, South America, Africa or Asia
For long-term: choose from more than 20 countries worldwide

Activities/Purpose: Choose from assignments like teaching, working in an orphanage or health clinic, and environmental and conservation efforts

Cost: Anywhere from \$1,600 to \$14,000, depending on length of trip and location (not including the cost of your flight and other)

Scholarships or discounts available for BGS members?
Multiple scholarships available to student members and alumni

College credit available? No

Application Deadline(s): On average, 60 to 90 days before your anticipated departure date

Website: unitedplanet.org



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JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

Making Time for Peace:

By Stephen Briggs

How One Senior is Putting Off Career
Plans to Serve Others

At a time when most college seniors are readying their resumes and going on job interviews, James Madison University (JMU) accounting major Jeannine Rossi has the next years of her life planned out: she's taking the CPA exam over the summer, then joining the Peace Corps for a two-year commitment.

Following this non-traditional path was not a decision she took lightly, nor made quickly. "I first came into contact with the Peace Corps in my fall semester of sophomore year at a study abroad alumni conference at JMU. I remember thinking at the time, 'that's so cool,' but that it was way too much for me to do. Even as adventurous as I am. I didn't think I could do it."

Rossi pursued her passion for travel and service in alternative spring break trips to Nicaragua and Peru, and spent a semester studying abroad in Spain. Still, she was concerned about the full immersion of a Peace Corps stint. "Any other time I've been abroad I'd always been with other Americans; I was always with people that spoke my language and knew my culture. The idea of being so isolated, living in a country that doesn't have all the comforts of my lifestyle here in the U.S. was just a little daunting."

Rossi is heavily involved in JMU's BGS chapter, and serves as its student president—and her experience at the Global Leadership Summit led her to seek out more time abroad. "I went to the Beta Gamma Sigma conference and I got to meet people from all over the world: Lebanon, Cameroon, Switzerland, China, South Korea, just everywhere," she said. "I ultimately got to the point where I decided that this was aligning exactly with my interests and I wanted to pursue it."

Rossi signed on to teach English in Indonesia, partially because of her interest in Asian cultures. "The food, the language and the culture are really interesting to me, and I want to be part of it," she said. But even in the Peace Corps, her time at JMU will prove valuable. "The College of Business has helped me in a lot of ways. First and foremost, in professionalism, which I can carry into any job that I go into. Also, we do so many team projects, and you're always going to be able to need to work together, especially in Peace Corps."

Rossi plans to start her CPA career after she completes her two-year commitment. "I think it's important to pay attention when there's something that's been in your heart for a long time," Rossi said. "Take it seriously, because you're going to be spending a whole lot of your life working, so it's good to pick something that you can align with your interests."



Jeannine helps build houses on her alternative spring break in Peru earlier this year.



The New Study Abroad

An Evolution

By Emily Lundquist



*Emily Lundquist on a trip abroad, looking over
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*

Study abroad: two words that, for many, define the collegiate experience. It is often framed and yes, marketed, in terms of appealing but abstract terms: personal development, global citizenship, broadening one's horizons. While those qualities have traditionally been relegated to the realm of soft skills, in an increasingly connected world and workforce, cross-cultural competencies and international experience are becoming critical for career success.

But the benefits of studying abroad go far beyond interpersonal skills: a 2009 study shared in the Harvard Business Review linked employees' international experience with increased creativity and entrepreneurship. According to researchers, people who spend time abroad or identify with more than one nationality are better problem solvers, are more likely to create new businesses and products, and are more likely to get promoted. For any student, then—and especially for MBAs—the opportunity to gain exposure and hands-on experience in a foreign market can have real career ROI.

Still, only around one in ten undergraduates in the U.S. studies abroad, according to the Institute of International Education's latest Open Doors report. And for employers, that's a big problem.

"Research shows that firms are seeing major gaps in their talent base around cultural intelligence, global exposure, and the ability to work within culturally diverse settings," said Liz Muller, managing director for the Global Initiatives office at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business.

Despite placing such a high value on these skills, employers for their part aren't proactively providing their staff with opportunities. How can we fill the gap?

FACT: Only 1 in 10 undergraduate students in the U.S. studies abroad.

— Institute of International Education

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HOW STUDENTS CAN GAIN INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

For students ready to trade in familiar terrain for foreign *tierra*, there are more avenues than ever before.

"It's an upward trajectory in terms of how students want to engage abroad," said Muller of the University of Michigan. "It's almost to the point where it's ubiquitous."

From campus exchange to real-world consulting, schools are working to provide students with more options that are more personalized to their degree programs.

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TRADITIONAL CAMPUS EXCHANGE

When I was planning my own study abroad experience during my undergraduate program ten years ago, the main route was a traditional exchange at a partner institution for a sliding scale of academic periods (full year, semester, or a January or summer term). I opted to study at a university in Madrid, Spain, for one semester—and I credit those four months with igniting in me an intense curiosity and a deep appreciation for new cultures, viewpoints and lifestyles.

However, extended experiences abroad like mine seem to be on the decline. Data from the Open Doors report shows that undergraduate students overall are selecting shorter stays, with full year and semester exchange beginning to drop as students opt to spend eight weeks or less overseas during the academic year.

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THE RISE OF SHORT-TERM IMMERSION COURSES

To meet this increasing need for shorter study abroad programs, schools are responding with offerings like short-term "immersion" courses, to provide valuable experience with a more manageable time commitment.



At NYU's Stern School of Business, participation in their "Doing Business in" (or DBi) short-term immersion courses has grown nearly fivefold since it was launched 12 years ago.

The intensive one- or two-week courses take students to destinations like South Africa, Australia, Morocco and China for a whirlwind of classes, corporate visits, presentations and cultural visits—with the goal of facilitating deeper understanding of the issues, opportunities, and challenges faced by businesses operating in that area.

"What started with approximately 68 student experiences on two programs has grown exponentially to 389 MBA student experiences on 11 DBi programs in the 2017-2018 academic year," explained Laura Giles, director of MBA international programs at Stern.



REAL-WORLD CONSULTING PROJECTS

Another popular option, and MBA mainstay, are international consulting projects that require students to take a critical step beyond the purely academic to real-world application.

University of Michigan's Ross School of Business is a good example of this. "We have well over fifty school partners, and we also collaborate with hundreds of corporations and startups, NGOs, educational institutions and hospital systems," Muller said. At Ross, these consulting projects are mandatory for first-year MBAs; of the one hundred consulting projects they have this year, roughly fifty will take place abroad.

"Students at schools with a strong international presence see it reflected in class discussions, group projects and beyond." — Emily Lundquist

At NYU's Stern, MBA students can elect to get real-world consulting experience through the university's Stern Solutions program.

"Our students [at Stern] have worked with The Nepal Coffee Producers Association to develop a business plan to export Nepalese coffee to the United States," said Giles. Another Stern project provided recommendations for modernizing the operations of capital markets in Guyana; another explored strategic brand positioning for a German hotel chain.

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SCHOOLS WITH INTERNATIONAL POPULATIONS

Those who attend schools with high percentages of international students and faculty may not need to book a flight to get global learning experience. The number of international students studying in the U.S. surpassed one million in the 2015/16 academic year (according to Open Doors), and that number continues to climb. Students at schools with a strong international presence on campus will often see more worldly perspectives reflected in classroom discussions, group projects and beyond.

At NYU, the rich diversity of its surrounding city is reflected in the student population, where 39% of MBAs have international citizenship.

"For students who elect not to participate in a global program abroad, Stern's MBA program attracts students hailing from 39 countries for the class of 2020," explained Giles.

In a similar spirit, Maastricht University celebrates its standing as the most international university in the Netherlands, welcoming 60% of its students from abroad.

"It's quite an experience to be in such a classroom," said Andries de Grip, Maastricht's director of the Research Centre for Education and the Labour Market and associate dean of strategy and collaboration at the School of Business and Economics. "Students practice working in a multicultural team, where they have to notice different perspectives on business-related issues—a huge contribution to their development."

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THE BOTTOM LINE

With more options than ever before, the upward trend of studying abroad is likely to continue. And as the world becomes increasingly connected and the workplace more diverse, students should view the experience as integral to their future success. It has been for me and my career.

"Most corporate executives say that international competencies are really valuable, but they don't invest in training," said Charles Vance, professor of management at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, who has studied self-initiated expatriates in the workforce. "People need to manage it themselves, and be responsible for their own development."



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Almost every day, BGS chapters around the world are hosting induction ceremonies and networking events, completing service projects, presenting awards, and traveling to professional development conferences. Take a look at what the Best in Business has been up to over the last year!



Top: Pedro Guanarteme Nuez Delgado, who was inducted into The University of Texas at Arlington chapter of BGS on April 18, 2018, also received the Wilson Scholar-Athletes of the Year award at his school this year. **Middle Left:** Students networking in the Connection Café at the GLS. **Middle Right:** In May 2018, Daniel Zinner (pictured, right), president of the BGS Germany Alumni Chapter, met with Indiana State Governor Eric Holcomb (left) at a reception at the Hotel Adlon in Berlin, where they discussed continuing education issues in Germany and Indiana. **Right:** Brandeis University International Business School's first induction ceremony.



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Top Left: The Peru Alumni Chapter gathers for a networking event on November 15, 2018.

Top Right: In November of 2018, faculty at the University of Ljubljana (FELU) organized a multidisciplinary workshop on global education challenges. Participants discovered their own roles and strengths in teamwork activities. **Middle:** Students get ready for the first day of GLS events. **Left:** Chris Carosella, CEO of BGS, give s a talk to the New Zealand Alumni Chapter during her visit in January 2019.



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Top Left: Sameer Somal, co-founder and CFO of Blue Ocean Global Technology, conducted a GLS demonstration in authentic in-person networking during his presentation at the GLS. **Top Right:** The Hong Kong Alumni Chapter enjoy a presentation from Mr. Shih Wing Ching, founder of Centaline Property Agency Limited, at their annual dinner at the American Club Hong Kong in December 2018. **Middle:** University of Sydney's ceremony on June 6, 2018. **Left:** The "How to Get Hired" panel.

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