

SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY



Meeting Our Brothers and Sisters Around the Globe

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

FALL 2012

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

Semester in France

Am. Sign Lang. Immersion

Diving in St. Lucia

Field Study in the Galapagos

Hugs United in DR,
Nicaragua and Jamaica

Research & Service in
Bolivia

Summer in France

Summer in Madrid

Spring Break in London

Springtime in Italy

Cooperative Center for
Study Abroad Offerings

FOUR MONTHS WAS NOT ENOUGH!

Computer Science major, Aaron Vizzini is making plans to return to France for the 2013 spring semester. Aaron spent the 2011 fall semester in France. He says returning was a decision that was relatively easy to make; one semester was “not enough time to experience it all.” He said, “The four months I spent in France were among the best of my life. The experiences, places, and people I had a chance to be a part of will forever shape how I see the world and choose to live. And, having the opportunity to once again go back to France and be immersed in its amazing culture is one opportunity I could never let slip by.”

Aaron took many beautiful photos the first time around for his fine arts class - many of which you’ve probably seen around campus on marketing posters. He plans to expand on his photography skills this time around. Aaron also took advantage of the semester breaks and traveled to Italy, Spain and Scotland. He says, “The knowledge obtained from being part of cultures you have only read or heard about is invaluable.” Aaron believes there’s a lot more to a rewarding college education than what the traditional class has to offer. The night he left

Ambialet in 2011, Aaron promised himself he would return. And now he is counting down the days until his reunion of his second home for another amazing semester.

WHIRLWIND EXPERIENCE

I recently had the pleasure of visiting our fall Semester in France group. I joined them and Gerry Honigsblum, the program’s academic director, and Eric Sepic, the program’s assistant, in Barcelona for several days before spending some time at our site in Ambialet. It was wonderful to participate in the Barcelona portion of the semester. I felt as though my feet didn’t hit the ground the entire time – it was a whirlwind of experiences. Gerry and Eric worked their magic and in just five days in Barcelona we visited the museums of Picasso, Miro and Dali; the breathtaking Sagrada Familia Basilica; the unforgettable park designed by Gaudi; an intense Flamenco performance, as well as time on the beach of the Mediterranean -- all while getting caught up in the festivity of the city and the many diverse street performers!

It was also good to return to SFU’s home away from home in Ambialet. There is something so enchanting about our site



The 2012 fall Semester in France group celebrated a nationwide heritage day in Ambialet. Both as volunteers and participants, they joined in the festive occasion with guides dressed in medieval garb, musicians with lutes and recorders, and trails that explored the history of every nook and cranny on the mountain our students call home.

in Ambialet. It captures your heart and makes a lasting impression. Tim Perkins, the program director, has done a phenomenal job not only with the program, but with the site as well. The renovations are remarkable and the students all feel 'at home.'

During my visit I was delighted to meet one of the program's instructors, Eric Crema. Eric is a captivating individual who teaches courses on medieval architecture, history and art, then turns around and takes the students on excursions showing them, first-hand, what they learned in class. I also finally met Sophie LeQuere, in person, after speaking with her on the phone countless times. Sophie is the general 'handywoman,' office manager and head gardener for the program. And Bernard LaBrosse is everyone's favorite chef. Bernard provides unbelievably delicious meals, daily, for our students and they love him for it. It was nice to see Marie Perez again. Marie has been our *femme de ménage*, fearlessly and tirelessly tidying up after the students – all with incredibly good spirits and enthusiasm.

As I was leaving, the students were preparing for yet another excursion in France and talking about their plans for spring break. They are all so happy to have this opportunity and, like many of the past Semester in France students, I suspect I will see them again in my office to discuss future travel plans. – *submitted by Juliana Horvath*

STUDYING ABROAD BUILDS RESUMES

Although the job market might be slowly improving, it is more important than ever to stand out from other applicants however possible. Research shows that studying abroad gives students additional qualifications that can improve their chances of landing a position.



Some of the Semester in France students while visiting Portugal

SERVICE/STUDY ABROAD DURING SPRING BREAK

Over 100 SFU students, faculty and staff will be traveling during spring break to Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Nicaragua, and London.

SFU's Hugs United group is hosting service trips to three different countries this year. Under the leadership of Dr. Bill Hanlon, members of the SFU community will again be working with Outreach 360 ([://www.outreach360.org/home/](http://www.outreach360.org/home/)) in Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic serving the needy by working in clinics and schools. In addition, there is a group who will be traveling to Jamaica to work with a Catholic mission in programs to help the poor. Scholarships to participate on the Jamaica trip were given to four business students aimed at facilitating microloans for aspiring entrepreneurs in this impoverished area. A total of 81 will be participating on these Hugs United trips.

Spring break is also the time for our business students to travel to London. Once again Drs. Randy Fry and Jim Logue will be taking a group of 20 students to London to embark on an unforgettable experience that will sum up 3 credits of a hybrid business course. This is the seventh year for this study abroad opportunity.

MARKETING SURVEY

As the new Graduate Assistant for the Center for International Education and Outreach, I'm working on a marketing research project for study abroad.

Study abroad introduces students to a new culture, a new way of life. They learn to recognize and appreciate how culture determines values and behaviors. Study abroad experiences develop skills and present an understanding the classroom setting will never provide. In addition to making friends around the world, study abroad will increase self-confidence and will have a lasting impact on students' world views. The question I would like to know is how many students at SFU actually know the benefits that studying abroad has to offer. I've developed a survey which has been distributed to the entire freshman and sophomore classes to gain a better knowledge of how we can make our programs more accessible or appealing to students.

Though the Study Abroad program as a whole has continued to grow, there is always room for improvement! Most students who want to study abroad usually need to do so before their junior year, due to the restrictions in the classes they are able to take in their respective majors. The survey will consist of questions asking students how aware they are of the programs we offer, how they've heard about the program (if at all), if they know of anyone who has studied abroad, and if they are aware of our Facebook page or Twitter (@SFU_StudyAbroad) along with many others. From the information I collect we hope to better understand what we need to do in the future and keep our programs on an upward trend. –
submitted by Chris Lieb

Did you know...

20% of students who travel abroad say it made a significant difference toward their career plans.

58% of students who have studied abroad are actively pursuing careers in other countries.

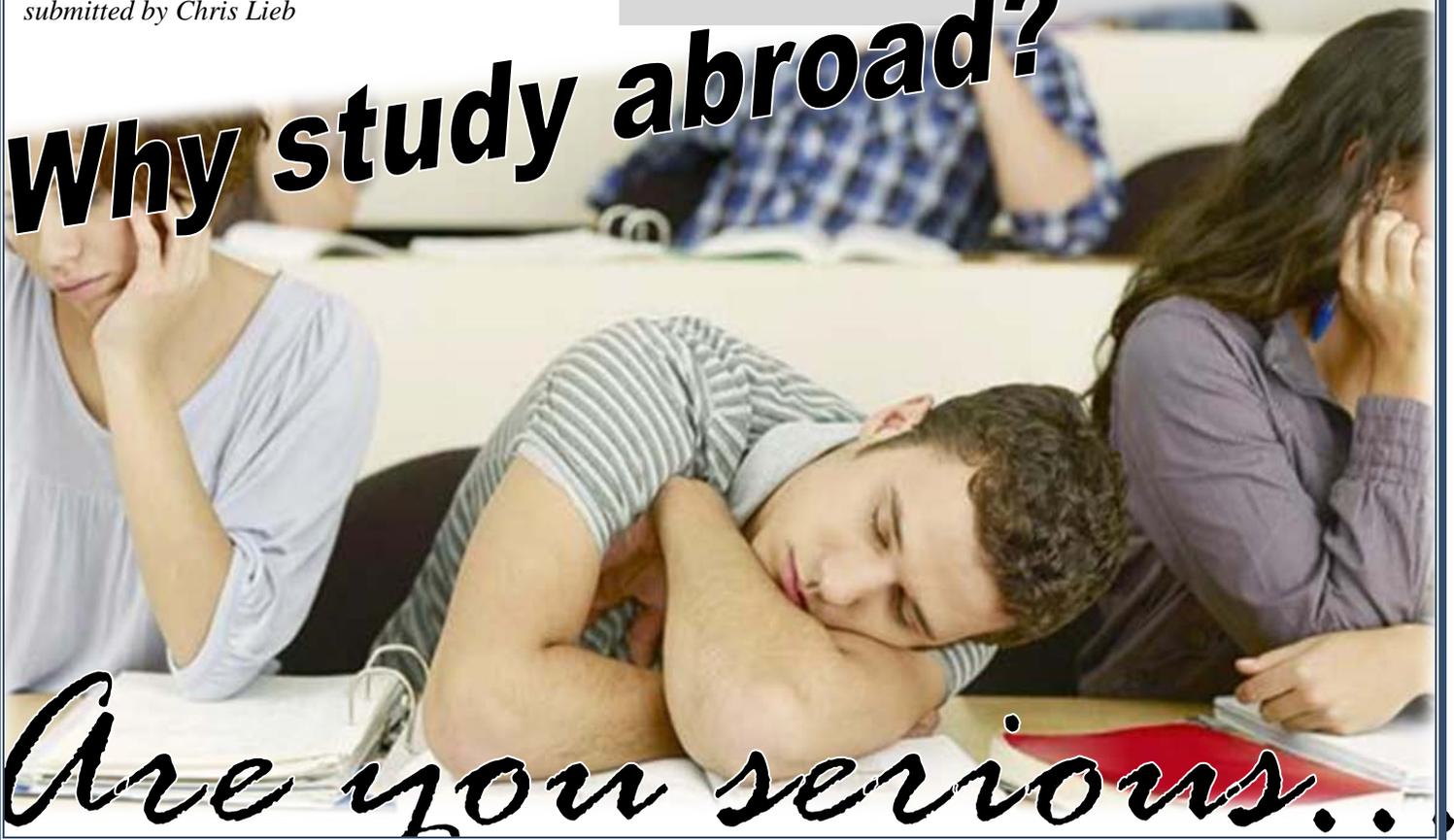
73% of employers say studying abroad is important when evaluating resumes.

90% of employers believe that students who have studied abroad are likely to possess other highly desired skills.

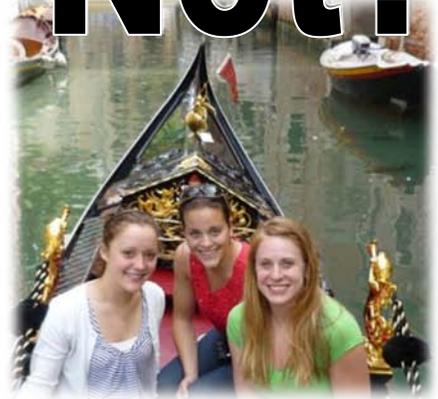
Sources: Frontiers Journal/Amerispan

Why study abroad?

Are you serious...



...Why Not?



SFU STUDENTS GET IT!

According to the Institute of International Education's 2012 *Opendoors* findings, 1.4% of U.S. students in higher education have participated in study abroad. This past year, 8.4% SFU students have participated in study abroad.

REACH HIGHER. GO FAR. GO INTERNATIONAL!