

Study Abroad Newsletter

■ Fall 2019 Edition MinotStateU.edu/international

Featuring:

Ashley Hunt Emily Schmidt Madison Tiedman McKayla Marchus Anna Dykeman Rebecca Daigneault Dr. Emerson Eads Dr. Terry Eckmann

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Why students should choose a faculty-led program

Short term study abroad programs led by Minot State faculty are a great way for you to experience the world! Travel with an enthusiastic Minot State instructor as they connect your learning objectives to the local host culture, customs, and history. Explore the world and build friendships with other Minot State students that share your interests.

Faculty-led programs offered at Minot State vary from year to year, and course credits for these programs differ depending on the nature of the experience and the faculty member's area of expertise. Programs are typically one to two weeks in length and are customized to the needs of Minot State students.

Dear Minot State Faculty,

Have you ever considered traveling abroad with students? Instructors choose to lead study abroad programs because they are excited to broaden students' interest in their specific field of study, are able to creatively link academic content to practical observations, and look forward to interacting with students outside of the traditional classroom.

If you are interested in leading a short-term study abroad program, or even embarking upon other, non-credit activities abroad, the Office of International Programs will assist you with the planning and implementation process. We provide support and guidance with budgeting, choosing the program location, on-site logistics, orientation, course delivery, student selection, outreach, and pre-departure orientation. Contact me to learn more!



Libby Claerbout, Director of International Programs



Dr. Eckmann and MSU students attended the Asia Fitness Conference in Bangkok, Thailand.



Read what Minot State faculty have to say about their experiences traveling internationally with students!

> Dr. Terry Eckmann Teacher Education/Kinesiology in Thailand, October 2018 and teach education observation in Spain and Morocco, April 2020

Takina students on international study abroad adventures has been one of my favorite experiences at MSU. The students who have taken advantage of these opportunities grow personally and professionally. The highlight of this upcoming trip will be our school day in Tangier, Morocco. Students will go into classrooms to observe and in the afternoon, they will be teaching lessons in their discipline. What an amazing opportunity!

Dr. Emerson Eads, Director of Choral Activities Performance tour in Norway, May 2019

Perhaps one of the most gratifying things about traveling to Norway with the Minot State University Concert Choir was seeing the students rise to the challenges of our very busy performance schedule, and even more beautiful was to watch the relationships that formed both between the members of the choir, and with our Norwegian counterparts as a result of singing together.

Rebecca Daigneault, Assistant Professor of Social Work Service learning in Costa Rica, May 2020

From this experience in Costa Rica I hope students will come to see the value of traveling abroad and make it a priority in their futures to understand various worldviews compared to their own. Hopefully, they will also be able to develop professional networks and foster lifelong relationships. On a personal note, I'm looking forward to witnessing and facilitatina students' growth in the area of cultural diversity and cultural and linguistic competence.



Anna Dykeman, Lutheran Campus Ministries Service learning in Costa Rica,

May 2020 I'm looking forward to accompanying students to Costa *Rica because one of my favorite* things is participating with students in their new experiences and learnings, particularly in cultures that do not resemble their own. Other cultures have so much to offer, not only to broaden our worldview, but to wonder how what we learned in one place might be very beneficial to problem solving in our own back vard. This is especially true with service learning opportunities.

It is my hope that the MSU students traveling to Costa Rica will really get to know each other and create a strong community that they will stay connected to in

> the future. Hands down though, my greatest hope for them is to create a deeper community because of this trip.

Soaking up the sun in Melbourne, Australia

Mandan native and Minot State student Emily Schmidt spent her Spring 2019 semester studying abroad in Melbourne, Australia. Emily is pursuing a degree in English, along with a music minor, with the dream of landing a career in music journalism.

What made you decide to study abroad?

I decided to study abroad after the study abroad coordinator came into one of my classes and spoke about it. I never really thought I could study abroad until that. Then I realized that I would never be able to fit such a long period of travel into my life as easily as I would be able to during my college time while I don't have any serious commitments.



Above right: Bathing box at Brighton Beach Below: Hanging out with a kangaroo at the Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary



Had you traveled abroad before your experience? Did that influence your decision to study abroad? Before leaving for my study abroad experience, I had never been out of the

country, not even to Canada. I figured go big or go home for my first time!

What made you choose this specific program?

I chose to study in Australia through International Studies Abroad (ISA) since there would be no language barrier, and I would have ISA support staff in my city.



Snorkeling at the Great Barrier Reef

What is your favorite aspect from studying abroad?

The friends I met while studying are like no other. We all share the same passion for traveling, trying new things, and pushing ourselves out of our comfort zones. Now I have connections to people all over the world which means more reasons to travel to visit them.

What did you gain from your study abroad experience?

There are so many things I discovered about myself during my time abroad, but the biggest takeaway I learned is finding out the type of environment in which I'd like to live in the future. Since I had never been out of North Dakota for longer than three weeks, I had never been able to experience a culture different than here. Living in a city with over four million people compared to a state with less than one million has been eye-opening.

> Westgate Park boasts a pink lake, due to algae and bacteria

What would you say to someone thinking about studying abroad?

Do it! No matter your major, there is a program that will work for you. You will never have the opportunity to study and travel as freely as you will be able to while studying abroad in college.



Benefits of studying abroad in the summer

Learn why three students decided to spend their 2019 Summer studying abroad

Madison Tiedman Marketing major Berlin, Germany

I chose to study abroad in the summer rather than the semester to stay on track with my goal to graduate this year as well as gain some cultural experience at a time when festivals and activities are going on. I arrived in Berlin during Fashion Week and had sightings of models, as well as tried on one-of-a-kind outfits in a pop-up shop!

I have German heritage that swayed my decision to study in Berlin, but I also wanted to learn more as a human interacting within new environments, both inside the classroom and out, because it is imperative that we as humans learn as much as we can from each other.



I chose to study abroad this summer because I wanted to do an internship to gain more experience in my field, but I didn't want to set

CULTURAL

ACTIVITIES!

my graduation date back. I think it can be beneficial to study abroad for the summer because it is less conflicting with class requirements and allows people to stay on track towards graduation.

I wanted to come to Cape Town because it is completely different from what I have ever experienced before and I wanted to be able to experience the culture and way of life. I am glad I chose to come to South Africa. Everyone is extremely friendly, there are so many activities, prices are pretty cheap, and the views are stunning.



McKayla Marchus Social work major Cape Town, South Africa

MORE AFFORDABLE!

> Ashley Hunt Biology major Athens, Greece

The biggest reason why I chose to study abroad for the summer rather than an entire semester was because of the cost. Studying abroad for the summer was much more affordable than for a semester. Although I would like to be here longer than five weeks, it was also a better option for me because I was still able to keep my job and I could still have half the summer to continue traveling as well as go home and see my family.

I chose to go to Athens, Greece because it has always been a dream of mine to visit. Greece is a beautiful country and I wanted the opportunity to really submerge myself in the culture and see how it differs from ours.

Student teaching abroad in **Barcelona, Spain**





English education major Travis Barnes reflects on his decision to complete his student teaching in Barcelona, Spain through Global Student Teaching this fall.

For several years, I have wanted to do a study abroad program of some kind. I feel that going to another country for my student teaching will give me the opportunity to learn how school systems around the world work, and I will be able to bring that information back to my teaching here in the United States. I will also gain a better understanding of global

cultures and will be able to relate and engage with students from all backgrounds. I also wanted to do this program because I believe it will give me an opportunity to pick up another language. American schools can have a wide variety of students from all over and it would be beneficial to engage with students coming from Hispanic backgrounds. I feel that teachers need to be learners first, and this opportunity would give me the chance to be a learner of many things."



I feel that this experience will benefit me more than student teaching in the United States because not only will I be learning the teaching process and how to manage a classroom, but I will also be learning how other countries view education. I will come back with new ideas and new techniques that I might not have picked up in an American classroom, and will also come back with proficiency in a second language. Further, I feel as though this opportunity will help me relate to students. I feel that teachers need to be learners first and this opportunity would give me the chance to be a learner of many things. It will help me relate to students and show them that just as I want them to learn their content, I too am learning my craft, the craft of teaching.





International business in **Ringerike, Norway**

Each year students from around the globe gather together at the University of Southeast Norway's Campus Ringerike for an intensive five-week program to study international management and international marketing.

This program moves beyond traditional classroom activities to engage with companies and people in the Norwegian business community.

Join the International Summer School program to learn in a multicultural environment while enjoying the beauty of the long, Nordic summer nights. The program also includes excursions to beautiful Norwegian fjords and mountains.

> Spend your 2020 summer studying abroad in Norway! Application deadline is Feb. 15, 2020.



The Minot State Office of International Programs is currently accepting entries for our **2019 Global Sights Photography Contest**. Minot State alumni, students, faculty and staff are invited to participate by submitting your favorite photos taken outside of the U.S.

Submission deadline is Friday, Oct. 25, 2019.

Winners and honorable mentions will have their work enlarged and displayed on campus during International Education Week. An electronic photo gallery is also posted on the MSU website to display winning entries.

For complete contest guidelines, visit: www.minotstateu.edu/international/photo_contest.shtml



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