I would have to say the history of the Czech Republic was the most enriching part of my study abroad experience. And no, not the history that I learned about in one of the courses I took while in Prague. What I mean is the history and beauty that was inevitably encountered just by getting lost in the streets of the most culturally stimulating city you could choose to study abroad in.

Olivia Outlaw
AIFS Study Abroad in Prague, Charles University
Fall 2018

I chose Prague knowing nothing about the city or the Czech Republic and I could not be more thankful that I took that leap of faith. The country has such an interesting and young global culture and an even more interesting history, you could see the impact of the history on almost everyone you met. Located in Central Europe it was so easy to travel all over to a variety of places, but nothing was better than coming home to Prague. My favorite memory from Prague was my last day there. We had decided to go to the John Lennon Wall and then the Charles Bridge. When we got up to the bridge a small band began to play on top of one of the bridge’s arches and as the sun set over the bridge it was just a very surreal moment.

DENMARK

Ashley Prinzhorn
Prague Consulting Project – Faculty-Led Short-term Spring 2017

While studying in Denmark, I was part of the Prague consulting group from UNCW that only lasted one week, but I spent an additional week traveling to Vienna, Barcelona, & Copenhagen. After high school, I spent 12 months backpacking across Latin America. Both of these experiences abroad taught
me how to navigate new areas alone, how to communicate with people from different backgrounds, and how to handle difficult situations without becoming overwhelmed, everyday can be an adventure.

**FRANCE**

*John Connery*
KEDGE
Spring 2018

Studying abroad allowed me to expand my academic and global knowledge. During my time at KEDGE, I was able to make friends with people from countries all around the world, travel to over 10 countries, while simultaneously taking classes. KEDGE has a club called INTERACT, which is a program run by French students that plans trips, parties, and other fun events for exchange students. I became much more independent, leading to personal growth. With the vast majority of people not being able to speak English, I was truly immersed in the French culture, something I'm forever grateful for. Studying abroad is an experience that can't be replicated and I hope for everyone to experience.

*Daniel Deas*
KEDGE
Spring 2018

Marseille, France offers a lively city experience along with a plentiful amount of outdoor activities at the local Calanques and beaches. However, the best experiences came from living with over 100 international students, many of whom have become great friends I traveled across Europe with. What I learned outside of the classroom about different cultures from my friends around the world is what I am most grateful for from my time abroad. Marseille is a great place to travel from and an even better place to live.

*Bryan Gillen*
KEDGE
Fall 2017

What I found most enriching about my experience abroad, is that it allows you to meet people from all over the world. My favorite place in Marseille, France was the Calanques. I would hike there weekly with some friends that I made while studying abroad. It was a great way to meet others, bond, and experience what Marseille had to offer.
Alexandra Harris  
Summer on the Mediterranean – Faculty-Led  
Summer 2017

I think students should study abroad in France because the culture is so distinct and rich. My favorite experience abroad was when our group took a day trip to the small village of Cassis, France. We took a catamaran ride around the Calanques, which are rocky mountains that meet the ocean, and are incredibly beautiful. We walked about the small city and ate the local gelato and croissants.

Lemuel Heida  
Paris: The City and Art – Faculty-Led  
Summer 2016

One of my favorite experiences in Paris was participating in a group art project at the top of Sacre Coure (the Sacred Heart Basilica). The Parisians were so welcoming and accepting of art that one of the security guards roped off the area for us while we created a drawing of the cityscape while hundreds of visitors looked on! Meeting new people from around the world who with different lifestyles than mine was a great experience.

Michelle Ho  
Summer on the Mediterranean – Faculty-Led  
Summer 2016

It was fun to travel and learn in Marseille, France, and it was an amazing opportunity to immerse myself in its culture, try new foods, meet new friends, and learn French all in one month! The Interact Club took us on electric bikes to explore Marseille and it was one of the best experiences of my life! The weather was perfect and we even biked to the Calanques to take a swim in the crystal clear waters.

Marialena McCree  
Summer on the Mediterranean- Faculty-Led  
Summer 2018

I was completely petrified to travel halfway across the world, but I am so thankful for the opportunity presented to me by Cameron. I was able to broaden my horizons with faculty and peer encouraged weekend travel and reassuring integration into the culture and people of the country. I gained a greater sense of confidence in myself by making connections and trying to relate with the natives of Marseille. Each day I explored the city, I found another unique story, restaurant, or person that helped me grow fonder of my temporary home. I did not speak any French going into my study abroad experience, which only added to the fun and challenge that is studying abroad in a foreign country! I can now see the culture of France, Spain, and other countries that I visited ingrained into our community now that I am back in the US.

Carter Paylor  
KEDGE  
Spring 2018

I think that students should choose to study abroad in Marseille because of the extremely diverse atmosphere which the Kedge program provides. Marseille is an extremely vibrant city surrounded by both mountains and beaches alike, but the opportunity to live and study with fellow students from around the world is simply...
unparalleled. Some of my closest friends during my time there were from Spain, Brazil, Chile, France, Canada, and the Netherlands (to name but a few), and the opportunity to share cultures and learn from them firsthand was an absolutely phenomenal experience. This is what I feel was the most enriching part of my study abroad experience; that I returned from my time abroad as a much more well-rounded and globally-minded individual thanks to this unique opportunity to become friends with other students from across the globe.

Meosha Lewis
Paris The NC Consortium Program
Spring 2018

One cannot help but fall in love with life itself when studying abroad in my host country. Paris, France touched my heart with its culture, food, people, and environment that all converged together into a beautiful city with history on every corner but my favorite experience is the memory of working with the native Parisian middle school students to help teach them English. I remember the joy on the faces of the children, and how brightly they shined when I walked into the room and they readied themselves for what was being taught. The experience of living in a foreign country develops a sense of responsibility for life but not just yours but others around the globe. France became my second home and I will always remember my time there.

Claire Dufour
Summer on the Mediterranean
Summer 2018

From studying abroad, I have learned so much about their culture and also about myself. I have dual citizenship with France and before I wasn’t sure if I ever wanted to live there but after this trip I am wanting to get an internship in France for next summer and then wanting to live in France at some point in my lifetime! Marseille is on the Mediterranean so the views are amazing and so is the water and one of my favorite places to go to swim was the Calanque du Sugiton which was a 45 minute hike from the University!

Catherine Formichelle
Summer on the Mediterranean
Summer 2018

Studying abroad was one of the best decisions that I made because I got the opportunity to travel all over Europe and meet a ton of new people in and out of our program. It was also interesting to take a class at a university in a different country, I got to travel all over France and Europe and I learned so much from just the travel part of our trip. Our program set up a sailing trip for our group where we took a 90 foot sailboat across the Mediterranean. We also had a program at the university in Marseille called interact. This group made our experience very enjoyable because we made some great French friends as well.

Madison McGough
Summer on the Mediterranean
Summer 2018

I believe that everyone who has the opportunity to study abroad should absolutely jump at the chance. Studying abroad in another country, especially a country that speaks a different language is the most incredible way to be immersed into a new culture. My favorite experience while abroad would have to be our school trip to Cassi. Cassi is this little fishing town right on the water with the most clear blue water and towering white mountains right next to it. What I found the most enriching with my experience is that I had the opportunity to attempt to learn a new language.
GERMANY

Alexander Fregenal
Business in Bremen – Faculty-Led
Summer 2016

My favorite place I visited in Germany was Berlin because there was so much to do there from seeing all the historical sights of World War II and the Cold War to checking out the latest in German automotive engineering. Berlin is such a huge melting pot of not just German culture, but also Italian, Eastern European, Turkish, and Middle Eastern as well. Berlin's blend of the past and present make it the perfect destination for any college student.

Ryan Weide
Intensive Language Study in Bonn and Bremen - Faculty-Led
Summer 2018

Germany is one of the best places to study abroad because it has so much to offer, from culture and history of the past millennia to highly advanced technology and engineering of the 21st century. Germans are very friendly and welcoming, and love to get to know foreign students as well as practice their English with them. Germany is centrally located in Europe, which is good for taking weekend trips or day trips to neighboring countries; I took a trip to the Netherlands for a weekend that was unforgettable! I would highly recommend studying in Germany if you are interested in any STEM field, Economics, Business, History, or International Relations, as Germany is an economic and scientific powerhouse, and has a fascinating and complex political history. I learned so much and had so many exciting experiences during my time abroad.

GREECE

Bailey Donahue
From Danger Zone to Blue Zone: Ikaria, Greece
Summer 2018

I think other students should seriously consider studying abroad in Greece not only for its clear waters and beautiful buildings, but for its interesting geography being made up of many islands. Not only can study abroad give you the chance to obtain a new perspective and dive into a diverse culture, but it allows endless opportunities for exploration. Greece offered an array of beautiful beaches, friendly people, phenomenal food, and amazing visits to a honey house, museum, hot springs, winery, hospital, Greek festival, and so much more! The most enriching part of my experience was knowing that I remained mindful the entire time and wasn't stressing about the small worries I had in the states. It truly is a gift to have the opportunity to live like another group of people live and see the world differently.

Kristen Weiderman
Spring Break in Greece with Communication Studies
Short term Spring 2017 – Faculty-Led
I believe that other students should study abroad in Greece because it is home to many different tourist destinations, as well as astounding history and philosophical principles that have left a lasting impact on the rest of the world. Whether it is from the bustling capital of Athens, to the tranquil Greek islands, Greece has much to offer.

ICELAND

Lesette Campbell
Happiness Emphasis: Honors Seminar in Iceland
Short-Term Spring 2018

Studying abroad in Iceland is best for those who have an interest in sustainability, the environment, oceanography, geology, or psychology. It is interesting to see how much they care for the land, especially between the various landscapes located on Iceland alone. You can travel from beaches, to lava fields, to mountains, to glaciers, to volcanos and to the Mid Atlantic Ridge. Might I add, this is the only location in the world that this humongous mountain range can be seen from the surface rather than beneath the Atlantic Ocean! There are no words to describe the raw beauty, unrealistic views and pureness of the water you can drink straight off the glacier.

Madison Poor
Happiness Emphasis: Honors Seminar in Iceland
Short-Term Spring 2018

After experiencing Iceland, I am beyond grateful to have gone because I recommend everyone travel there once in their life. Every single person I met, whether it was a grocer in Reykjavik or a farmer in the country, was so incredibly welcoming. While my whole trip felt like a scene out of a movie, my favorite experience had to be hiking a glacier. We were led by some of the nicest guides who taught us about environmental factors that were harming the very glacier we were on. It was a once in a lifetime exploration that I will remember forever.

IRELAND

Katherine Chiaviello
UNCW @ Maynooth: A Fall Program for First Year Spring Admitted Students; Coastal Studies in Belize- Faculty-led
Fall 2016; Short-Term Spring 2019

My freshman year of college I studied abroad for a full semester at Maynooth University in Ireland. I had the opportunity to explore Europe and the United Kingdom. I tried so many new experiences and I can easily say it was the most fun I have ever had. When I arrived at UNCW after studying abroad, I was prepared for any challenge that came my way. I learned how to be my own individual during my time in Ireland. Studying abroad is important because it teaches you life lessons that you do not learn from college.

Caroline Dequire
UNCW @ Maynooth: A Fall Program for First Year Spring Admitted Students
Fall 2016
Being able to live in a society different than my own was incredibly eye-opening. There were so many resources available to the students I believe that anybody who goes to Maynooth will be welcomed with open arms. The locals were also very kind and willing to give you directions or help with anything you may have needed. Another perk of Maynooth is that it is a short train away from Dublin. This allowed us to experience the Irish city life as well as the student life.

Colleen Fitzpatrick  
UNCW @ Maynooth: A Fall Program for First Year Spring Admitted Students  
Fall 2016

Other students should study in Ireland because of the opportunities it provides. The location is ideal for traveling around Europe and Ireland itself has so much culture and history students can learn about. Maynooth University provided an amazing education with one-on-one sessions outside of the lectures, which were very helpful. I was able to travel to four countries, which is what I found most enriching. I learned so much about culture and history within the different countries. Meeting people in Ireland was also so enriching; I was able to create bonds with people across the ocean.

Ca'rin Green  
UNCW @ Maynooth: A Fall Program for First Year Spring Admitted Students  
Fall 2018

Though you can sit in an American classroom and learn about the world, you'll never truly be able to understand the rest of the world until you go out and experience. Part of being a global student is experiencing the different styles of life and culture of those from around the world. Everything around the globe is connected and can impact everything in your normal life. I really liked Ireland because being in a different country means different types of vegetation, atmosphere, animals, layout. The world around you is different from home and I liked being able to relearn what home is.

Alexsana Light  
National Univ. of Ireland, Galway (NUIG)  
Fall 2018

Ireland has such an incredible history and culture, and I really got to experience that firsthand while in Galway. Not only does it provide such a rich cultural experience, but the people are some of the nicest I've ever met, and there are a large number of international students at NUIG. My favorite part about studying abroad in Galway was the Christmas market that opened in the town square. They had a big lighting ceremony where they turned on all the Christmas lights, and officially opened the market up, along with the Ferris wheel and carousel across the street.

Savanna Morris  
UNCW @ Maynooth: A Fall Program for First Year Spring Admitted Students  
Fall 2018

Students will find that this experience will mature and humble them as they grow into a more culturally enhanced citizen. This will change their perspective on the surrounding communities they encounter and allow for more critical thinking. Students should want to study abroad to learn aspects that are unimaginable otherwise! My trip to the Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge was definitely one of my favorite trips I took in Ireland!

Kaleigh O’Neal  
UNCW @ Maynooth: A Fall Program for First Year Spring Admitted Students  
Fall 2018
I encourage students to study abroad in Ireland because, not only is it a beautiful country, the people in Ireland are amazing. Seeing how others live outside of the United States is one of the best educational opportunities that one can take advantage of. Seeing and experiencing how other countries live is one of the most enriching opportunities offered at UNCW. My favorite memory would have to be traveling around the countryside of Ireland where the roads were wide enough for only one car. Going on tours through the countryside was such an interesting way to learn about Irish history.

Aakshi Patel
AIFS Study Abroad in Maynooth: Summer
Summer 2018

Studying abroad in Ireland was a life changing experience. The culture and lifestyle of the country is very different. The public transportation is great, the food is amazing, the scenery is breathtaking, and there is live music on every street corner. I met so many amazing people from the program and got to explore Ireland with them. We went to see different sites such as Giants Causeway, the Cliffs of Moher, and the Aryan Islands. We also got to do activities that I wouldn't have the opportunity to do in the US like spending the day on an Irish farm, going bog jumping, biking in the mountains, and going cliff jumping.

Alexander Thannisch
Maynooth Univ.
Fall 2018

Ireland is an absolutely breathtaking place. With a very colorful culture and intense history, Ireland has so much to offer to absolutely anyone who considers studying there. Ireland is one of the friendliest and safest countries in the world and as such it is very easy to have an amazing time, travel to other places in Europe, and receive a great education as well.

Alexis Becraft
Maynooth Univ.- Summer Schools
Summer 2018

I studied abroad at Maynooth University during the summer program and it was easily one of the most incredible experiences of my life. While there I was able to fully immerse myself in the Irish culture and experience student life, as well as the city life. I visited amazing cities such as Dublin, Galway, Malahide, and Bray, and I was also able to visit Northern Ireland. I also visited beautiful sights such as the Cliffs of Moher, Giants Causeway, and the Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge, all of which pictures do no justice. Ireland is the perfect country to study in because you can experience all aspects of the country in a short amount of time, and you can visit big cities as well as see the small coastal towns or small sheep towns.

Chloe Linderauer
Social Work Field Seminar- International Based Field Placement
Summer 2018

Studying abroad helps you gain new perspectives. It really opens your eyes to different cultures and makes you realize how big the Earth really is. I had the chance to organize a family fun night for the Galway Autism Partnership. It was the biggest turnout they had ever had and it was so cool to meet all the families! If you get the chance to do a service learning trip or an internship, international experience looks amazing on a resume and it teaches you how to work in a culturally competent way.
ITALY

Darien Bradley
ISA Florence, Italy: Filmmaking or Acting for Film
Summer 2018

I read up on all I could about my country before going but I still wasn't prepared for what I was about to experience! I met locals and learned about their customs and cultures that I wouldn't have learned otherwise. Being able to live in an environment in which you are simultaneously learning about it changes your perspective and creates a longer lasting effect. Studying abroad changed my perspective of the world because it forced me out of the bubble I used to live in and now I can learn about the world around me in a more realistic way. I encourage others to follow this path of broadening your surroundings and ideas of what you think you already know, because you will come out feeling more free and excited to continue down that path.

Taylor Ruzewski
UNCW in Italy
Fall 2018

Studying abroad an unforgettable experience where you'll learn so much about yourself, the country, and other people. There's really no better way to push your personal boundaries and further your learning than to take your education overseas. I loved how easy it was to travel around Italy, each of my weekends was spent in a different Italian city, helping to broaden my understanding of Italian culture and my experiences. I hiked in the Trentino-Alto Adige mountains, went kayaking through the Mediterranean, cliff jumped off Roman ruins, learned about wine and olive oil in Tuscany, and so much more. Every day was truly an adventure.

Jackson Zaccaria
UNCW in Italy
Fall 2018

18 cities, 7 countries, 2 continents...1 life changing adventure. Studying abroad has been the most eye-opening, humbling and invigorating experience of my life, over the past four months, I have learned so much about the world and about myself. Sorrento has an amazing atmosphere, everywhere you turn there is a breathtaking view whether it is the exotic mountainous scenery that stretches for miles or the stunning Mediterranean Sea with Mt. Vesuvius powerfully displayed in the distance.

THE NETHERLANDS

James Olson
ISEP in Netherlands – Radbound University Nijmegen
Spring 2017

The Netherlands is an amazing place to study abroad because it is such a beautiful country. There are fields of tulips, countryside’s of green, bicycling everywhere, and it is home to the amazing city of Amsterdam. I loved immersing myself in the Dutch culture and food, especially the decadent
desserts. My favorite place in the Netherlands was the Top floor of my host University's tallest building. Twenty floors up, you can see miles around the city enjoying the quaint Dutch houses to the large churches.

**Spain**

**Ashley Alegre**  
Valencia, Spain Summer I – Faculty-Led  
Summer 2016

I think students should study abroad in Spain for several reasons, but primarily if they want to study the language, culture, and witness the beauty of Spain. Mallorca's landscape was absolutely breathtaking and the people were very friendly. My host mother brought my roommates and I close together and made sure we always had everything we needed.

**Emily Blackwell**  
Valencia, Spain – Faculty-led  
Summer I 2017

Valencia has so much to offer: it is right on the coast with a beautiful view of mountains in the distance, by bus it is 4 hours away from the 1st and 2nd largest cities in Spain (Barcelona and Madrid), and there is always something to do, ranging from going to the large aquarium in Las Ciudad de Las Artes y Las Ciencias or taking a hiking trip to the hot springs of Montanejos! I enjoyed Valencia so much because I was able to expand my Spanish speaking abilities, enrich myself in the deep roots of the Spanish culture, and meet so many new, amazing people. I may even be doing the TABSA program there this coming Fall because I loved the city/country so much!

**Chase Catterton**  
ISA Sevilla, Spain: International Studies, Business & Spanish Language  
Fall 2016

Across from our school there was a small cafe that you’d only notice if you were desperate for a caffeine fix. A friend and I found ourselves frequenting the place so often that the people who worked there greeted us by name and didn't even have to ask for our order. It was clearly a place for locals, cramped for space and thoroughly crowded during breakfast hours, but the conversations we had there and the people we formed relationships with taught me more than any of my studies.

**Kaitlyn Cock**  
ISA Granada, Spain: Spanish Language, Culture & Electives  
Fall 2017

In just one semester in Granada, Spain I learned more Spanish than I ever could have imagined learning in only four months. My favorite place was the Genil River. Daily, I would run alongside the entire river, people watching families in the park, mountain bikers on their way to the Sierra Nevada, and dogs running and playing freely off their leashes.
Amanda Cook  
Univ. of Valencia  
Spring 2016

People from Spain have a very different outlook on life than us Americans do. They truly enjoy and cherish life and its joys, both small and large. They work to live, not live to work. The most enriching thing I experienced was speaking to people from my host country in their own language, and meeting and learning from other study abroad students from different countries.

Mikalen Cox  
ISA Sevilla, Spain: International Studies, Business & Spanish Language  
Spring 2018

I believe that everyone should study abroad because it truly opens your mind so that you can think about and understand differences between cultures in a better way than is portrayed in mainstream media. For me the most enriching part of my study abroad experience was living with a Spanish family because I was really able to experience the culture first hand learn to live like a local.

Olivia Faria  
Summer in Santander, Spain  
Summer 2018

I think anyone wanting to practice Spanish should study abroad in Spain because there are so many different parts of the country that all have their own beautiful views and rich history. I would recommend staying in Santander, Spain, as I did due to the city being small, but having so much compacted into it. There were the incredible beaches 5 minutes away, the view of the mountains from my window, the active city life just outside my door, and all the must see towns just a bus ride away. It was the perfect place to spend my 5-week trip.

Mary Guffey  
Valencia, Spain Summer I – Faculty-Led  
Summer 2016

My favorite part of my time in Spain was the relationships I formed. I went on this excursion not knowing a single other person and came back with some life long best friends. Through traveling on the weekend to places like Barcelona, Majorca, and exploring waterfalls in Valencia, I made memories that will always hold a dear place in my heart.

Ramsey Gunter  
ISA Sevilla, Spain: Hispanic Studies & Electives  
Spring & Fall 2018

In general, studying abroad provides a lot of perspective and allows you get out of your comfort zone. I think that students should study abroad in Spain because of the enriching culture and traditions there that are deeply
embedded into the everyday life. My Spanish level rose significantly and I grew to understand the world even better. I would love for other students to have the same opportunity to grow and discover themselves like I did. The Spanish culture provides an ideal learning environment and I recommend it to anyone interested in studying abroad!

Ellen Harris
Univ. of Valencia
Spring 2018

I loved studying abroad in Valencia because the city is beautiful and it's not too touristy. It forced me move outside my comfort zone and it helped me become more independent. Valencia is the perfect place to go if you’re looking to practice Spanish and learn some of the Spanish culture. Valencia is a city with a variety of traditions and celebrations, so it seemed like there was always something going on to participate in. One of the best parts of my trip was meeting people from all over the world. I now have friends in many other countries that I still stay in touch with and hope to visit in the future.

Malon Hodges
ISA Granada, Spain: Spanish Language, Culture & Electives - Academic Year/Semester
Fall 2018

I studied abroad because I wanted to indulge in an environment that was something completely different than anything I have seen or lived. Going to Spain was an excellent option for me to be a part of something that was different. Spain offered a rich, traditional cultural experience that was incomparable to anything we can see in the US. From the rolling hills of olive trees to regal remnants of Muslim architecture, Spain imparted a feeling that could not be described in words.

Haley Jensen
ISA Sevilla, Spain
Spring 2018

I encourage every UNCW student to study abroad because it is a once-in-a-life time opportunity. While you are in college, you have a lot less responsibilities and you are able to truly enjoy the experience and learn a lot about yourself and the world. Before studying abroad in Spain I had never left the country and being able to travel Europe opened my eyes to how big the world is and how many opportunities are out there. Spain was an incredible country because they have such a unique culture and history from the rest of Europe, in addition to beautiful weather, amazing beaches, and incredibly kind people. I also was able to grow a lot in my Spanish. I would love to help reassure students that studying abroad is an amazing opportunity and it is well worth the work to make it happen.

Joshua Kleinstuber
Semester in Santander UNC Charlotte
Spring 2016

After my last night of celebrating in the city of Santander, I and a few students from the United States, Italy, and Spain spent the early hours of the morning sitting on the beach, where we unanimously decided that it was the best sunrise
that any of us had ever seen. My trip of a lifetime included over 100 days of travel, 42 bus rides, 18 plane tickets, 15 countries, and countless blisters, but that final beautiful sunrise is the one memento that will undoubtedly stick with me forever.

Meredith Metcalf
Summer in Santander, Spain
Summer 2018

I believe that studying abroad enhanced my life in ways I never was able to consider. Living outside of your comfort zone pushes you to see new things about yourself and grow in them. I also believe that learning new cultures is essential to understanding and loving other people. In Spain, I lived with a host family and it was the most amazing experience. From a language learning perspective, studying abroad or traveling is the only way you can truly immerse and learn that language. I will suggest studying abroad to every student I meet because it made me a more confident person and Spanish speaker.

Katherine Nester
USAC Spain: Spanish Language, European and Women's/Gender Studies in Alicante Fall 2018

Study abroad allows someone who truly wants to learn another language the opportunity to not just speak, but live and breathe in the culture of that language. The ability to also visit surrounding countries and visit old friends was exciting. It let me see that boarders, countries, and language barriers do not stop relationships with people. I truly loved tutoring in a private home. I became very close with the two sisters; we still talk from time to time and it’s very nice to know that short time we spent together over a few months has formed an everlasting relationship.

Stephen Nymberg
ISA Valencia, Spain
Spring 2018

Before studying abroad, I constantly heard the phrase “Study Abroad will change your life.” I always thought this was used to persuade students to get out of their comfort zone and explore another country and culture. I can honestly say study abroad has completely my life by making me into a more well-rounded and mature individual. Not only did it raise my Spanish level to a degree I couldn’t imagine, but I also gained a second family. My host-mom, host-dad, and 4 host-siblings were all in tears as I left their house. I now have a family in Spain, welcoming me with a house to stay in anytime I return. Not only did I receive such a great experience at home immersing myself in the language and culture, but I was also able to travel to 6 different countries in Europe for extremely cheap. I never fathomed having such an impactful experience.

Anastasia Pinon
ISA Sevilla, Spain: Education in a Multicultural Context Fall 2017

My favorite place in Sevilla is the city center. It is very relaxing to walk around and watch all the different people walking around while enjoying the warm weather outside. The best part of my experience was living with a host family. I lived with such amazing parents and their nineteen year old daughter. I developed a strong bond with my host mom and I am still in contact with her!
Samantha Rizzi
ISA Valencia, Spain: (STEM) & Health Sciences Core and Spanish Language - Academic Year/Semester
Fall 2018

Studying in Valencia, Spain was the best decision I could've made in college! Being in Europe allowed me to learn SO much about different cultures, histories, and ways of life that I would have never experienced at home. Spain was so beautiful, the people were so kind, and the city was always alive! I'm thankful this experience taught me to be independent and try things outside my comfort zone. One of my favorite experiences abroad was my trip to the Spanish island of Mallorca, we got to sunbathe on the rocks, swim with the fish, and dive into the crystal clear water at the Cala d’Or. It was nothing short of paradise.

Andrew Smith
ISA Valencia, Spain: Business, Sciences & Liberal Arts - Academic Year/Semester
Fall 2018

Studying abroad has been one of the most amazing experiences that I’ve ever had. I’ve gone abroad three times in three different countries and I would not take it back for the entire world. It sounds really cliché to say, but, whenever you are immersed in another culture and society in another country, you begin to think for yourself and find yourself being more independent and headstrong. My favorite experience was in Greece I learned how to sail and I got my international skippers license. My classroom took place on a sailboat in a marina of Thessaloniki, Greece.

Lacey Stanfield
ISA Salamanca, Spain: Health & Medical Sciences - Semester
Fall 2018

I think you should study abroad because it allows you to experience so many other cultures. You will also meet so many people from all over that may even become some of your best friends. I studied in Spain and I loved every minute of it, it was beautiful and the people were great. My favorite place in Spain was the city where I studied. It is a small historic city, everywhere you looked there were historic buildings, when I was there my university was celebrating 200 years.

Lydia Sypawka
Valencia, Spain Summer I – Faculty-Led
Summer 2016

I believe immersing yourself in an unfamiliar culture is something everyone should experience. Spain was the perfect place to explore because of it is full of different cultures and traditions that have been around for many years. My favorite part of my experience was being able to not just visit but be a part of the Spaniards' everyday life.

Baylee Taylor
ISA Barcelona, Spain: Spanish Language & Culture
Summer 2017

Studying abroad in Barcelona gave me the courage to open my eyes to all the foreign, new, beautiful and great things the rest of the world has to offer. I was fortunate enough to experience Europe even outside of Spain. Traveling to France, Italy, Ireland and the Netherlands. Barcelona is historic and modern, elegant and cluttered, riveting and relaxing cities I have ever been to. I am
beyond grateful that I was exposed to the most exquisite views, the tastiest cuisine, and the best group of people to experience all of this with.

**Garrett Wade**  
ISA Salamanca, Spain: Business & Spanish Language  
Spring 2017

Salamanca, nestled between beautiful Cantabria and bustling Madrid, is the best town for a university student in Spain. The town is considered to be the home of the purest Spanish, and that; coupled with the oldest university in Spain, offers students the best environment to master their Spanish. Trekking close to three hundred miles during my spring break along the Camino de Santiago was the most impactful part of my tenure in Spain. Meeting people from all over the world while pushing yourself physically and mentally is what studying abroad is all about.

**Nicholas Lazzati**  
Univ. of Valencia  
Short-Term Spring 2018

Studying abroad has helped me adapt to a new culture quickly by overcoming the initial culture shock. Eating tapas and hanging out with my friends from Germany, France, Northern Ireland, and Scotland was one of my favorite experience. The people I've met were extremely friendly, and I can say with confidence that we will be lifelong friends. The differences in cultures always provided us with something to talk about, and everyone was accepting of their cultures. The fear of missing out should not stop you from studying abroad, because you are already missing out on so much if you don’t!

**Keilani Nebesky**  
ISA Valencia, Spain: Health and Natural Sciences  
Spring 2018

I studied abroad in Valencia, Spain and it was easily one of the best decisions I've ever made. Spain is such a culture rich country and the people there are so nice. My favorite experience in my host country was being able to experience the festival of "Las Fallas" in my host city of Valencia. It was an amazing week to learn about the culture and background of the festival and of Spain. The events, food, and costumes throughout the festival were amazing and I am so lucky to have been able to be a part of one of the biggest festivals in Spain.

**Elizabeth Thorell**  
AIFS Study Abroad in Barcelona, UAB  
Spring 2018

Studying abroad in Barcelona, Spain was the greatest experience of my life. I had been on vacation to Europe before, but actually getting to live there was a whole different experience. I was able to become a part of the community and experience everyday life in beautiful Barcelona. I miss this experience every day and I am so thankful for it. My favorite part about living in Barcelona, was experiencing art history. My apartment was only a 6 minute walk away from La Sagrada Familia, one of Gaudi’s greatest workings of architecture that has been being built since 1882. I was able to see new pieces being added on all the time and it was truly just amazing!
Catherine Dobbs  
Jonkoping Univ.  
Spring 2017

Studying abroad was outside of my comfort zone since I was the only student from UNCW, the Swedish culture was warm and welcoming. A Swedish cultural tradition is to memorialize your experience through overalls the university provides. My global viewpoint was expanded during a Swedish Language and Culture course at Jonkoping. I was able to compare the U.S. and other countries to the easygoing Swedish ways of taking “fika”, an afternoon break for coffee and pastries. My program also helped me to travel with other international students where I saw and learned more history.

Mia Horvath  
Jonkoping Univ.  
Fall 2017

Sweden is a beautiful country with so much to offer! Everything from the bustling city of Stockholm, to the little town of Kiruna near the Arctic. I took a 14-mile roundtrip hike up to the Trolls Tongue in Norway, rode on a dog-sled and saw the Northern Lights in Swedish Lapland, wandered around the city of Copenhagen in Denmark, and sailed on a ferry in Finland’s capital, Helsinki. I experience the less-traveled, more beautiful parts of Europe by studying in one of the Nordic countries.

Ashley Jen  
CHHS: Innovation in Health and Human Services (For Graduate Students)  
Short-Term Spring 2018

Sweden is leading the way not only in deploying technology to solve healthcare and social problems, but in multidisciplinary team approaches and co-production that garner viable solutions for all stakeholders. The country’s safety, cleanliness, and lovely people are just the icing on the proverbial cake to make this country an attractive option for educating students in a safe, clean, and welcoming environment. While I learned so much while traveling in Sweden, I will never forget our cultural activity in Grönna and Vising. Our group took a ferry to an island lake where we traveled by bike to explore medieval castle ruins and burial mounds as well as current Swedish rural lifestyles and capped our day with a traditional garden/lake to table meal prepared by a personal chef. Along the way we took in beautiful mountain and lake scenery and practiced our Swedish with the friendly locals.

Alejandro Ramirez  
CHHS: Innovation in Health and Human Services (For Graduate Students)  
Short-Term Spring 2018

All UNCW students, especially those pursuing a major under the college of health & human services, should study abroad in Sweden and Denmark. For example, I believe Sweden is the ideal location for studying healthcare innovation because of its trusted system that provides a better overall structure in comparison to our healthcare, all surrounded by beautiful scenery wherever you go. From their modern, minimalist yet functional architecture, to their elevated, waterside views, Sweden is a fascinating place to study and explore. A highlight of the trip would be the tour around Halmstad, as well as the city's university, a Swedish college comparable and dissimilar to UNCW, spanning from the campus itself to the courses hosted to their students.
UK-ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, WALES

Christine Conger
Univ. of Hertfordshire
Spring 2016

My favorite experience studying in England was the first time I went into London with fellow international students. We experienced traditional “tea time” and walked around London in awe of the city. We were all excited to be studying in England and we laughed so much while getting to know each other.

Cheyenne Craun
Univ. of Roehampton
Fall 2017

For me, the biggest reward I gained from studying at Roehampton in England was the people I met. These friends will be life long. If nothing else, gaining connections around the world can never hurt your professional future.

Kelsey Eaves
Univ. of Hertfordshire
Fall 2017

England is a marvelous place to study abroad. It is a hub for all travel across Europe, its population is multinational in general, and the campus officials are very nice and helpful. My favorite experience was the Windsor Castle trip I took with the University Studies group. It was an amazing experience to tour the Royal Family’s weekend and vacation home and learn so much about its history.
Britton Edwards  
Global Connections in London & Hatfield – Faculty-Led  
Short Term – Spring 2016  

One of the prime benefits of studying abroad in the United Kingdom is the rich diversity that courses through the nation, primarily in the bustling city of London. Both locals and tourists add to that diversity, making the city a mixture of every group of people that comes to experience the culture. Every street corner echoes with accents and languages from all across the world. During my visit, I was able to speak to people from nations I'd never visited and see the traditions of societies other than the ones I'd grown up with.

Victoria Gonzalez  
Univ. of Roehampton International Summer School  
Summer 2018  

Studying abroad in the UK was an eye-opening experience and I think it is worth a trip no matter what your field of study! Something I found interesting about it is that while the UK and the US share a common language and some cultural norms, especially when it comes to pop culture, the UK has another culture and rich history all its own. The similarities and the differences balance out to create an enriching, educational environment that quickly starts to feel like home away from home. I learned so much about the art, history, and political discourse of England while abroad, and since so much of it is intertwined with our own history and culture, it can all be applied to my life back in the states.

Kathryn Greisiger  
Keele Univ.  
Spring 2016  

The United Kingdom, and England especially, is an amazing gateway to the rest of Europe. With my program, not only did I meet UK students, but also students from all over the world. My semester abroad gave me the chance to discover my strengths and weaknesses and who I am as a person, and gave me a greater understanding of how the world works.

Kristen Hillson  
Business Study Abroad in London & Hatfield - Faculty-Led  
Summer 2016  

Studying abroad in England has been the best experience I've had so far in college. Experiencing cultural differences for an extended period of time has taught me to adapt in a way I've never had to before. I feel more culturally aware, empathetic and understanding to people from different cultures. Exploring the city of London was my favorite part of the program. From walking across the Tower Bridge, touring Buckingham Palace, shopping on Oxford Street and discovering local restaurants I enjoyed every minute that I spent in the city.

Jasmine Hughes  
Roehampton Univ.  
Spring 2017  

While in London I fell in love with the Camden area, it was so diverse and energetic, not to mention full of amazing food! I loved the areas near Roehampton, Putney and Hammersmith, including a cafe by the name of
Smugglers. Another favorite, just two hours away is Brighton and their 5 star “Talk of Tea”, I also traveled to several other countries in Europe, since the flights are so reasonable, so why not study in the UK?

Ryan Ricks  
Business Study Abroad in London & Hatfield - Faculty-Led  
Summer 2016

England was a very worthwhile experience. My favorite place was the Harry Potter Museum. It was part of my life growing up, and is part of who I am. I got to see part of myself in real live action.

Laura Tapia  
International Internship in London – Faculty-Led  
Summer 2017

Studying abroad allows one to become patient and tolerant. A study abroad experience can serve as a time of self-reflection, which can lead to self-discovery. My favorite experience in my host country was a holistic one. I enjoyed the pace of the city, the portions of food sold and consumed, prices of toiletries, the artistic culture from classical to street art, and the English accents!

Lydia Watkins  
Rose Bruford College  
Fall 2017

The most enriching thing about my study abroad experience was that I got to jump right into the semester doing all the same things my Rose Bruford peers were doing. Being a part of the banter that the English take part in is equal parts annoying and exciting. It's annoying because they are so good at it, and it is exciting because you learn to get good at it and eventually you can put them in their place and they love you for it.

Katherine Carr  
Rose Bruford College  
Academic Year 2018

Studying abroad pushes you outside the bubble of your comfort zone and allows you to come in contact with different worlds. Traveling in Europe is easily accessible and allows you to venture to places that seemed unreal before. It really helps to broaden your perspective, especially coming from the United States where we don't learn too much about the rest of the world. My favorite experience would probably be the house show that we put on in the second semester. I acted alongside fellow Americans and Brits to create a piece of work I was very proud and excited to perform and it was an experience like any other.

Jessica Kernan  
Business Study Abroad in London & Hatfield, England  
Summer 2018

Being abroad opened so many different opportunities for me and allowed me to explore several different countries that I would have never had the chance to if I didn't study abroad. The most enriching experience from my study abroad was being able to take weekend trip and go to different cities that I was not studying in.
was able to spend a weekend in Paris and another weekend Edinburgh. My favorite experience in my host country was the tour bus I rode around London. I was able to see the city and learn about the amazing history. I was also able to tour Buckingham Palace and was able to learn about the rich history of that palace.

**Thomas Olsen**  
Business Study Abroad in London & Hatfield, England  
Summer 2018

Studying abroad in London was such a unique experience. You are exposed to so many different cultures and are able to experience the lifestyle of an English male. In addition, you make lasting friendships and memories. There is endless things to do in a city like London. My favorite experience in London, England was being able to go out with my peers to enjoy the city and experience the nightlife.

**Anna Grace Passalino**  
Univ. of Roehampton  
Fall 2018

I think students should study abroad in London because of how inclusive everyone there was and how easy it became to immerse into their culture. What I found to be the most enriching part of studying there were the connections and friends I made from all around the world. I lived in a dorm on campus at the university. Not only do they welcome foreign students, but they make it their job to make sure you feel included. I lived in a dorm on campus at the university. The friends I made there ensured every day something new and exciting.

**Kevin Schmoeller**  
Business Study Abroad in London & Hatfield, England  
Summer 2018

Studying abroad really opens your eyes to new cultures and experiences that you wouldn't get anywhere else. I personally have formed some of the greatest friendships while studying abroad that you get to have the same shared experience. It will make you more confident traveling around the world because you have done it before. Taking a tour of London with our group while we had a personal tour guide in which you get to ask any questions you want was great. Also, seeing the Buckingham Palace while the queen was residing was one of my favorite trips.

**Rachel Kowadlo**  
Univ. of Hertfordshire  
Spring 2018

Travelling to London in the spring of the 2018 semester right outside of London, England gave me the confidence to explore one of the largest cities in the world and also gave me an appreciation for a diverse cultural melting pot. I have so many fond memories of England, but I would have to say my favorite experience was the last two days I spent in London before flying home. Within two days, I attended a Westminster Abbey service, had a picnic in Hyde Park, stopped by Buckingham Palace, saw two West End musicals (The Phantom of the Opera and Kinky Boots), explored The British Museum and The National Gallery Museum, and ate delicious food in Borough Market. London has so
much to offer and explore, so there was never a dull moment wandering.

Alexa Rode
Univ. of Hertfordshire
Spring 2018

Studying abroad in England was by far the most incredible experience I could have asked for during my time in college. Living on my own and having access to one of the most dynamic cities in the world was an extremely empowering and rewarding experience. Having the opportunity and the freedom to explore London and travel to different European cities was by far the most incredible aspect of studying abroad in England. Not only did I live outside of one of the most remarkable cities in the world, but I had the unbelievable opportunity to travel Europe with friends that I made at my host university.

Julia Christian
Univ. of Stirling
Spring 2018

Studying abroad in Scotland was one of the best decisions I have ever made! Besides the rich history surrounding Scotland, the locals were the friendliest people I have encountered, always eager to help you out or give pointers on what to do for fun. Although in a different country, I found my courses incredibly similar to that of UNCW's but with Scotland's own twist on them, so I never felt out of place or overwhelmed. I believe studying abroad in Scotland is a great choice because of the beautiful scenery, great education, and great people met along the way!

Jessica Draughn
Univ. of Stirling
Fall 2016

My twenty-second birthday fell on the second of a three-day tour of the Scottish highlands. Driving over the bridge to the Isle of Skye, the view consisted of rolling green valleys and crystal-blue lochs for miles all around. Vast mossy-green ridges spread out as far as my eyes could see. Being up there in the clouds, looking down upon this natural wonder, I knew that my life would never be the same. The magic I felt there will always be with me, and I have to say that I believe that no other birthday will compare to that one.

Rachel Hawkins
Univ. of Stirling
Spring 2017

Scotland became a second home to me. The Scottish people are some of the most interesting and friendly people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. In Scotland you can find small town pubs where the bartenders know your name, a castle always within reach, and a friendly smile wherever you look. As a history major there is almost no better place to be than to be surrounded by the richness of knowledge that can be found in castles, libraries and sifting through archives older than even the US.
Madison Henderson  
Univ. of Stirling  
Spring 2017

Stirling, Scotland is similar to UNCW in size, location, community and offers a safe environment to learn and make friends. My most cherished moment abroad, was when my friends and I went to a museum in Glasgow, and older man who worked at there, called us over to the piano to teach us the Scottish National Anthem. It was so fun and we were all singing “Love Song”, by Sara Bareilles, and taking turns on the piano sharing our love for music.

Erin Hillbrands  
Swansea Univ.  
Spring 2018

Being across an ocean from family and friends can be hard, but as soon as I arrived at Swansea, students were eager to help me settle into the student village. They made me feel at home. Everyone I met was so kind and helpful and I really felt like I was part of the community within the first couple of days. The people I met and the new student community that I was now part of in Wales greatly enriched my experience. The best part about going abroad is that you really have to put yourself out there in order to explore a new place and meet new people, and I became so much more independent and confident through that. Wales has so much to offer both in terms of amazing people and beautiful places to explore, and while you take advantage of the amazing things it has to offer, you grow as a person and learn so much about yourself.

Heather Jensen  
Univ. of Stirling  
Fall 2016

Scotland is a beautiful, green, and wild country. I would recommend students study in Scotland if they love nature and history. There are wonderful mountains, but there are also bustling cities and castles. What I found most enriching about my study abroad experience was learning how to communicate intercultural. I met so many international people and I found an appreciation for so many cultures, languages, and ways of life different from my own. It opened my eyes, and I really grew as a person.

Taylor May  
Univ. of Stirling  
Fall 2017

Stirling is a great place to study abroad. It is a small city filled with interesting history and it is a short train ride away from larger cities like Edinburgh and Glasgow. From almost anywhere in the city you can see Stirling Castle and the William Wallace monument, which are some of Scotland's tops attractions. I took advantage of the easy access to many of Scotland's beautiful mountains by going on hikes almost every weekend.
Ashley Merklinger
Swansea Univ.
Spring 2018

Swansea University is like my home away from home. The people in Swansea are friendly and welcoming. Getting to know some amazing people, having the chance to go on mini-adventures just about every day of the week to all sorts of different castles and natural sites, and getting three weeks in the spring to travel cheaply to European countries. Swansea has a large international population, so you're bound to make friends with people from all over the world. The most enriching part of my study abroad experience has been making many wonderful new relationships. I learned so much about Wales and other countries, like France and China that I wouldn't have otherwise, and they helped immensely with dealing with homesickness.

Chase Myers
Swansea Univ.
Spring 2018

As Seahawks, we are always expected to take a step outside of our comfort zone and face fresh challenges when possible. Going abroad to Wales was one of the best decisions I could have made as both an academic and as an adventurist. Wales is the most stunning country I have ever been to, as there is a little something for everyone who visits. Big cities or small towns, pubs or Indian cuisine, the ocean or mountains, the options of exploration are endless. Wales is most notable for the many castles that are spread out as far as the eye can see, the beautifully organic landscapes, and an overall quaintness of the country that makes interacting with the locals comforting and fun. Wales is the perfect country to study in if you are someone who likes hiking, nature, culture, and something just out of your familiar element.

Alexandra Yilanes
Edinburgh Napier University/School of Nursing and Midwifery - ISEP
Fall 2016

Stirling is a quaint, beautiful town that allows a person to grow in their ideals and knowledge surrounded by kind and helpful Scots. My most enriching experience in Stirling was living on campus with several other students that were studying abroad and being able to learn about their traditions. I believe that Scotland was a turning point in my life, and I would love to encourage others to seek out the adventure that being in Scotland allowed me to have.

Alexandria Dempsey
Swansea Univ. (with optional honors seminar)
Spring 2016

Wales is a fantastic place because its charm is unparalleled anywhere else. University life in Swansea is a great balance between learning and experiencing. I think that traveling across Europe during spring break and seeing how differently people as a whole act around the world was incredibly worthwhile. I think that studying abroad in the UK is enriching because society there has a perfect balance between the familiar and the new.
Sarah George  
Swansea Univ.  
Fall 2017

Going to Wales was a dream come true. I met an incredible amount of people not only from the United Kingdom but from many countries in Europe, and I was able to forge lasting friendships. I was able to celebrate Guy Fawkes Night on the beach surrounded by my friends and the community. We watched fireworks displays, made our own bonfire with everyone else out that night, and I got to learn about and celebrate a holiday that I’d only heard of before.

Logan Ikenberry  
Swansea Univ. (with optional honors seminar)  
Spring 2017

The UK, U.S. and other international students at Swansea University were extremely accepting and friendly, which made Swansea feel like home! I liked that the UK culture was enough like America that homesickness was not an issue, but still felt like I was experiencing another culture. Swansea is surrounded by beautiful landscape including the Gower. The grassy green cliffs by water and grazing sheep looked like a place I dreamt about as a kid.

Olivia Backston  
Univ. of Hertfordshire  
Academic Year 2018

Studying abroad gives students an opportunity to experience meeting people from all over the world as England and the University of Hertfordshire is a melting pot of many different cultures and ethnicities. My favorite part of the experience was not only the easy access to both London and the rest of Europe, but also being able to make a close set of friends and a new set of experiences that I can treasure forever.
Paris Backston  
Univ. of Hertfordshire  
Academic Year 2018

Traveling to England allowed me to gain a sense of independence and learn how people in other countries live, which is sometimes very different than in the US. The most enriching part of my experience was the people I met and the close relationships that I was able to form. My favorite experience was any time I got the chance to visit London. It is such an amazing city full of so many different cultures and experiences.

Chelsea Tippett  
Swansea Univ.  
Spring 2018

Studying abroad will widen the horizons of any student willing to go and make it an experience they will remember. By taking the risk of leaving your home country, students give themselves the opportunity to learn more than they can imagine— and the bulk of it being outside of the classroom as it's so much more than school learning. In Wales, specifically Swansea, beauty can be found anywhere and everywhere. My favorite part of being in Wales was going to Three Cliffs Bay for the first time.