

Study Abroad Survey

Your name: **Nila**

Location of Study Abroad (school, city, country): **Oxford University – Oxford, England**

Date of Study Abroad: **Summer, 2006**

Classes taken (type is enough, ex: Spanish, Economics, etc): **International Economics**

Did you travel to other places before, during, or after your classes (if so, where and what did you do there)? **Rome (5 days), Venice (2 days), Munich (2 days), London (4 days), Paris (4 days), Salzburg, Austria (3 days). Salzburg was by far my favorite place, and I would HIGHLY recommend going there. If you do, be sure and get the “Salzburg Card” it cost about \$50 for 4 days and saved me about \$250...**

Did you stay in a hostel while you were traveling (if so, how was it)? **I stayed mainly at small, family-run hotels. They take a while to find, but they are relatively cheap and always really nice! www.tripadvisor.com was a GREAT resource.**

What were your accommodations like (did you live in a dorm or house, with other Americans or with natives of the country)? Did you like it? **At Oxford I stayed in the dorm. It was a private room and small but nice.**

How did you call home (buy a cell phone, use a calling card, pay phone or private phone)? Did you call a lot or use email, instant messenger, or post cards to communicate? **I used a calling card to call home, but it wasn't usually the often because I e-mailed every day and updated a blog (www.travelblog.org worked nicely).**

How did you handle getting money (from ATMs, traveler's checks, etc.)? Did you use your credit cards much? **I used credit cards almost everywhere, but I was able to withdrawal cash from ATMs. It is free at almost every ATM in Europe.**

Did you take your laptop with you (if so, were there any problems or concerns with that)? **No.**

Was there something you left at home that you wish you had brought with you? **I wish I had taken a lot less clothes. I brought enough clothes to last me for about a week, and you don't need that at all. 1 pair jeans, 1 pair Capri's, and 3 shirts would be all I brought back (plus a nice outfit for at Oxford).**

How did the classes compare to classes here at UNL? **They were VERY entertaining, and not very hard.**

What is your favorite memory from your time abroad? **My cab ride from the airport in Rome to my hotel (it was the first country, and I was NOT prepared for the death-defying drive that is “normal” in Rome).**

What is at least one thing you did that you would recommend to others? [Go to Salzburg, Austria.](#)

What is one thing you wish you had done that you did not do? [Go to Ireland or Prague.](#)

Any advice in general for someone considering studying abroad, or specific advice for someone considering going to the same country? [Flights and hotels are a lot cheaper if you book them in advance!](#)

Blog: <http://www.travelblog.org/Bloggers/Nila/>

Study Abroad Survey

Your name: Sarah

Location of Study Abroad (school, city, country): Oxford, United Kingdom

Date of Study Abroad: Summer 2004

Classes taken (type is enough, ex: Spanish, Economics, etc): Economics (History of the Economy of Britain, International Economics)

What did you do to prepare to go abroad?

- Bought train (Eurorail) tickets
- Bought plane tickets
- Bought travel backpack
- Created web log to use instead of e-mails
- Made a communication plan with my parents
- Got passport
- Made copies of identification information in case they got lost
- Bought a travel backpack & travel purse (Eddie Bauer)
- Got an ATM card from my bank
- Let my bank know where I would be and when to prevent fraudulent charges
- Created a budget for food, lodging, souvenirs
- Bought digital camera
- Bought iPod connector for camera to store pictures on that

Did you travel to other places before, during, or after your classes (if so, where and what did you do there)?

We went before our classes started. 2 ½ weeks of traveling:

- Brussels, Belgium
- Kassel, Germany
- Prague, Czech Republic
- Munich, Germany (and Dachau Concentration Camp)
- Venice, Italy
- Rome, Italy
- The Vatican
- Florence, Italy
- Zurich, Switzerland
- Paris, France
- London, U.K.

We also traveled during our extended weekend to Dublin, Ireland.

Did you stay in a hostel while you were traveling (if so, how was it)?

- Venice, Italy – I can't remember the name of the hotel, but it was on the Venice mainland, really hard to find and kinda creepy
- Rome, Italy – Hotel Alessandro, this place was AWESOME! I would recommend it to anyone going to Rome. It had a fairly good location and the staff was incredibly helpful.
- Paris, France – Don't remember the name. It was also somewhat creepy.

- London, U.K. – Piccadilly Backpackers, this place was very good. Great location, helpful staff. I'd suggest it for anyone.
- Dublin, Ireland – Abbey Hostel, this was also very nice, I would recommend this to anyone going to Ireland and staying in the main area of Dublin

What were your accommodations like (did you live in a dorm or house, with other Americans or with natives of the country)? Did you like it?

The dorm at Oxford was very nice. I had two roommates, but we all had plenty of space. I didn't request a roommate, but my rooming situation turned out very well. I made new friends and it was a good experience.

How did you call home (buy a cell phone, use a calling card, pay phone or private phone)? Did you call a lot or use email, instant messenger, or post cards to communicate? How did you handle getting money (from ATMs, traveler's checks, etc.)? Did you use your credit cards much?

One of the girls had an international cell phone she had rented. We used that while we were traveling and a combination of calling cards. Make sure you buy INTERNATIONAL calling cards and you write down all the appropriate country codes you'll need. In Oxford, they provided us with re-fillable calling cards. I also used my web log to communicate what I had been up to and e-mailed friends some from the computer lab on campus and internet cafés during the trip.

I used my ATM card the most for cash and paid for as much as I could with my credit card to save the cash for souvenirs.

Did you take your laptop with you (if so, were there any problems or concerns with that)?

I didn't take my laptop. I took my iPod photo instead and used the connector from my camera to store photos on my iPod. It saved a lot of space.

Was there something you left at home that you wish you had brought with you?

I felt like I had everything with me. Anything I forgot I could buy at a drug store along the way. The only thing I would have packed was a travel pillow but I didn't really *need* it. It just would have been nice.

How did the classes compare to classes here at UNL?

The classes were MUCH easier than the JDE classes. The tests were essay tests and I like those better than multiple choice tests.

What is your favorite memory from your time abroad?

Just all the things I got to see while I was traveling and getting away from the computer 8-10 hours a day to just enjoy relaxing.

Funniest story from your study abroad?

Don't really have one.

What is at least one thing you did that you would recommend to others?

Travel before you start school if you can.

What is one thing you wish you had done that you did not do?

I wish I would have gone to Barcelona, Spain instead of Dublin, Ireland. I had fun in Ireland, but I don't like beer, so it wasn't as good of an experience as the other places I visited.

What cool gifts did you purchase for yourself or friends and family from that country?

Venetian mask, tons of postcards, shot glasses, English tea

Favorite foods/drinks consumed while abroad?

English tea, real Italian pizza, pasta

Any advice in general for someone considering studying abroad, or specific advice for someone considering going to the same country?

Start planning early. Make a budget and expect to go over it.

Please also submit a picture taken while abroad, or give a web address where pictures can be found.

www.flickr.com/sadyebabi/

Study Abroad Survey

Your name: **Meagan**

Location of Study Abroad (school, city, country): **University of Deusto, Bilbao, Spain**

Date of Study Abroad: **Summer 2004**

Classes taken (type is enough, ex: Spanish, Economics, etc): **Advanced grammar and translation, spanish civilization/history**

What did you do to prepare to go abroad? **I researched the town I was going to be living in on the internet. I looked at the weather so I could know what clothes to pack.**

Did you travel to other places before, during, or after your classes (if so, where and what did you do there)? **Madrid, Segovia, Toledo, San Sebastian, Pamplona, Guernika, Spain; St. Jean de Luz, France. Looked at architecture in Segovia, Toledo. Went to Museums and just walked around the city and ate churros in Madrid. Went swimming and sun bathing at the beach in San Sebastian. Visited the festivals at the running of the bulls in Pamplona. Visited the museum and the ruins in the city that inspired the famous Picasso painting. Explored the little town in France.**

Did you stay in a hostel while you were traveling (if so, how was it)? **Yes, it was fairly nice and secure. The only problems were that we had to drag big suitcases up these rickety old stairs that I was afraid would break, and we had to be back before 1 am because the owner locked the door then and we would have to wake them up to get in after that. You had to pay extra if you wanted hot water in your shower. But the owners were really nice, and the others staying there were pleasant.**

What were your accommodations like (did you live in a dorm or house, with other Americans or with natives of the country)? Did you like it? **Dorm. I would have liked to stay with a family because most people weren't comfortable speaking in spanish so everyone spoke in english and wasted opportunities to practice.**

How did you call home (buy a cell phone, use a calling card, pay phone or private phone)? **Calling card. They sold them in my dorm. Buy once you are at your destination, not in the US. Did you call a lot or use email, instant messenger, or post cards to communicate? I used email and aim and my blog mostly. I only called home about once a week.**

How did you handle getting money (from ATMs, traveler's checks, etc.)? Did you use your credit cards much? **I went to the ATM about once a week. But it was annoying that Wells Fargo charged me \$5 each time I withdrew cash.**

Did you take your laptop with you (if so, were there any problems or concerns with that)? **No. I used the computer lab in my dorm.**

Was there something you left at home that you wish you had brought with you?

How did the classes compare to classes here at UNL? **Entertaining and easy.**

What is your favorite memory from your time abroad? **The running of the bulls and the festival around it was crazy.**

What is at least one thing you did that you would recommend to others? **Go to the Museums in Madrid. They have famous paintings.**

What is one thing you wish you had done that you did not do? **Traveled before or after to other countries. Some of my friends went to Paris, and I wish I had gone.**

Any advice in general for someone considering studying abroad, or specific advice for someone considering going to the same country? I really like that I went to Bilbao instead of Madrid. Bilbao was small, but still large enough to have many amazing things. Madrid was so international. Bilbao had it's own special culture due to being in the Basque country. I loved it.

Study Abroad Survey

Your name: Amar

Location of Study Abroad (school, city, country): India (primarily northern and western), through the University of North Carolina

Date of Study Abroad: 06/2004-07/2004

Classes taken (type is enough, ex: Spanish, Economics, etc): Language, Literature, Culture

What did you do to prepare to go abroad? Purchased a water filtration device is the main thing; otherwise, I'd been to India before (and my family is from there) so I just packed.

Did you travel to other places before, during, or after your classes (if so, where and what did you do there)? Spent a month traveling to visit family after the trip (that was all of July).

Did you stay in a hostel while you were traveling (if so, how was it)? Stayed in a couple; it depends where you are, but, overall, they were surprisingly nice. (Except the one in Mumbai, which didn't have air-conditioning in the most humid place I've ever been in my life.)

What were your accommodations like (did you live in a dorm or house, with other Americans or with natives of the country)? Did you like it? Lived in a hotel a couple days (which was really nice), lived in dorms most of the time. I was happy with it most of the time (see the Mumbai exception above).

How did you call home (buy a cell phone, use a calling card, pay phone or private phone)? Did you call a lot or use email, instant messenger, or post cards to communicate? I used email a couple times but most of it was phone calls, using both pay phones and calling cards.

How did you handle getting money (from ATMs, traveler's checks, etc.)? Did you use your credit cards much? No credit cards, all traveler's checks converted at banks in India into cash.

Did you take your laptop with you (if so, were there any problems or concerns with that)? No; I wouldn't be able to use it over there without a special power adapter.

Was there something you left at home that you wish you had brought with you? An extra water bottle; having two is very convenient.

How did the classes compare to classes here at UNL? They were less intense (they want you to be able to get out and experience the country), and still very interesting.

What is your favorite memory from your time abroad? When we were in the foothills of the Himalayas, there was this ancient fortress at the top of a hill with a winding, stony path leading up to it. The standard way to get to the fortress was to take an elephant. So our group rented a few elephants, and the group of four-five kids I was with ended up getting on the last elephant. We offered our elephant driver some extra money if he would beat all the other elephants to the top. We passed the first couple drivers easily, but eventually the other kids caught on and we ended up in a little bit of an elephant race 😊. We won by passing the first elephant at the last minute.

Funniest story from your study abroad? We were at a monument in New Delhi in the middle of the city and there were these pretty territorial monkeys camped out in one corner. This guy, who must've thought he was really tough, decided to walk over and try to feed or pet some of the younger monkeys. As he went over to them, this huge monkey comes charging out and almost blindsides him. The guy managed to turn around just in time so that the monkey just jumped on his back and slapped him on the head.

What is at least one thing you did that you would recommend to others? Whenever someone says "I'd like to go <some place you've never been>" GO. If you're tired, suck it up, drink some water, eat a power bar, and GO. Don't miss out on going anywhere.

What is one thing you wish you had done that you did not do? Worked harder on the language; it's a pretty unique opportunity to learn the language in-depth, and even if the country's natives try to speak English with you, keep using the native language.

What cool gifts did you purchase for yourself or friends and family from that country? A couple paintings in the traditional Indian style. Some sweets, cloth/scarves, etc. I don't think I got much anything for myself.

Favorite foods/drinks consumed while abroad? Food – Almost all of it 😊. The authentic food tastes better than the same food over here.

Any advice in general for someone considering studying abroad, or specific advice for someone considering going to the same country? Be careful about the water, be open-minded, bring a good stock of granola/power bars, and don't expect air-conditioning. When you're deciding where you want to study abroad, consider that the real point of the experience is to try out something new. Try to go somewhere where the principal language isn't English, the conditions aren't all first-world, and that you haven't necessarily spent your whole life learning about. You can always take a vacation anywhere in the world; for a study abroad, try to go somewhere where the study aspect of the study-abroad will be most beneficial.

Study Abroad Survey

Your name: Kyle

Location of Study Abroad (school, city, country):

Universidade Federal do Ceara
In Fortaleza, Ceara, Brazil

Date of Study Abroad:

June – July, 2006

Classes taken (type is enough, ex: Spanish, Economics, etc):

Portuguese, History, Ethics

What did you do to prepare to go abroad?

I bought a language CD and read as much as I could about the country and customs.

Did you travel to other places before, during, or after your classes (if so, where and what did you do there)?

We traveled to Rio de Janeiro, Manaus (in the middle of the Amazon), Iguacu Falls, Brasilia, and Canoa Quebrada

Did you stay in a hostel while you were traveling (if so, how was it)?

The places we stayed were more like “vacation suites” than hostels.

What were your accommodations like (did you live in a dorm or house, with other Americans or with natives of the country)? Did you like it?

The accommodations were quite nice. In Fortaleza we stayed at a beachfront hotel for 3 weeks.

How did you call home (buy a cell phone, use a calling card, pay phone or private phone)?

I called home occasionally with a Brazilian calling card. Don't buy one in the US even if they tell you it can be used for any type of “international calling”.

Did you call a lot or use email, instant messenger, or post cards to communicate?

I used Skype and e-mail to communicate with friends and family.

How did you handle getting money (from ATMs, traveler's checks, etc.)? Did you use your credit cards much?

I used my ATM card pretty much everyone. Only a few banks accept American credit/ATM/debit cards so do your research and beware of foreign transaction fees from your local bank or credit union.

Did you take your laptop with you (if so, were there any problems or concerns with that)?

I brought my laptop and it was nice because there were other people staying at the “extended stay hotel” who had wireless networks in their rooms.

Was there something you left at home that you wish you had brought with you?

I thought that I wouldn't use my camera enough or that it would be stolen or lost. That was definitely a mistake.

How did the classes compare to classes here at UNL?

They move at a very rapid pace if you're taking summer classes. They have to because you're only in class for about 2 hours each day but you still have to cover the majority of the material you would cover in a similar class at UNL. Nevertheless, the classes were not stressful in any way, shape, or form.

What is your favorite memory from your time abroad?

Rio de Janeiro is more beautiful and amazing than any words or even pictures could describe. Go there.

What is at least one thing you did that you would recommend to others?

Don't wimp out on the morning jungle hikes and/or sunrises in the Amazon.

What is one thing you wish you had done that you did not do?

Unknowingly entered an "adult" disco.

What cool gifts did you purchase for yourself or friends and family from that country?

Cachaca (Brazilian sugarcane liquor), and lots of soccer/World Cup gear

Favorite foods/drinks consumed while abroad?

Baiao de Dois (bean & rice dish w/ mushrooms, eggs, vegetables)

Any advice in general for someone considering studying abroad, or specific advice for someone considering going to the same country?

General advice is: get out of the USA and see the world. It's amazing how closed your world view is until you actually go somewhere else and see it for yourself.

Advice for Brazil: get ready to have a lot of fun and learn a whole lot about yourself, your country, and meet a lot of really cool Brazilians who, surprisingly, actually sometimes *like* Americans!

Pictures:

<http://nishu.smugmug.com/>





Study Abroad Survey

Your name: **Meagan**

Location of Study Abroad (school, city, country): **International Center, Viña del Mar, Chile, internship in Viña at a software company**

Date of Study Abroad: **Summer 2006**

Classes taken (type is enough, ex: Spanish, Economics, etc): **Chilean language and culture**

What did you do to prepare to go abroad? **It was winter there (our summer) so I had to dig out all of my winter stuff**

Did you travel to other places before, during, or after your classes (if so, where and what did you do there)? **Santiago, Zapallar, La Serena, Pisco Elqui, Andes Mountains**

Did you stay in a hostel while you were traveling (if so, how was it)? **Yes. It was fine, but they were stiffing us on price and sometimes they will say anything to get you to stay at their hostel instead of another one so be careful.**

What were your accommodations like (did you live in a dorm or house, with other Americans or with natives of the country)? Did you like it? **I lived in an apartment with 2 other Americans. We had a maid that came once a week and cleaned. We had to cook for ourselves but the apartment was stocked with dishes and silverware and stuff. I loved my roommates and I still keep in contact with them. There is a special thing you have to do to turn on the hot water that gave us problems the first week.**

How did you call home (buy a cell phone, use a calling card, pay phone or private phone)? Did you call a lot or use email, instant messenger, or post cards to communicate?

How did you handle getting money (from ATMs, traveler's checks, etc.)? Did you use your credit cards much? **I bought a cell phone and it was well worth it. I used that to call my family and talk to other people in Chile. For my friends I just used email and aim.**

Did you take your laptop with you (if so, were there any problems or concerns with that)? **No**

Was there something you left at home that you wish you had brought with you? **No, I probably overpacked a little.**

How did the classes compare to classes here at UNL? **It was a lot less formal. There was no homework. We had a workbook but we could kinda change the subject and talk about what we wanted, as long as we were learning. My class included some field trips.**

What is your favorite memory from your time abroad? **Skiing in the Andes or horseback riding through the Hills of Pisco Elqui**

What is at least one thing you did that you would recommend to others? **Visit Pisco Elqui. Make friends with the locals. Don't be afraid to talk to people.**

What is one thing you wish you had done that you did not do? **Traveled south to see penguins, gone to Argentina.**

What cool gifts did you purchase for yourself or friends and family from that country? **Lapiz lazuli penguin and box for friends and family.**

Favorite foods/drinks consumed while abroad? **Amazing fruit juice. All kinds of empanadas.**

Any advice in general for someone considering studying abroad, or specific advice for someone considering going to the same country? Consider places that aren't the usual Paris or Madrid. Chile is amazing; go there. I loved doing an internship in another country; it proved my competence in a business and technology situation where everyone spoke Spanish.

Pictures: <http://unl.facebook.com/album.php?aid=2034540&l=29bf3&id=17219373>,
<http://unl.facebook.com/album.php?aid=2035345&l=25c33&id=17219373>,
<http://unl.facebook.com/album.php?aid=2039041&l=38696&id=17219373>