



# The International Educator

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## UW-Eau Claire study abroad information for advisers, faculty, and staff

### Why are UW-Eau Claire's Deadlines so Early?

To study abroad next summer or fall, students need to apply in November. For spring 2005 the deadline is in March or April. Many people ask why we have such early deadlines. The main reasons are:

- 1) Academic planning for students. Students are able to know what to register for on campus, and what to "save" for their term abroad.
- 2) We are able to provide a semester's worth of orientation for the students prior to departure. Our deadlines allow us to hold a required 8 hour orientation session early in the semester, and then continue orientation through weekly emails from Peer Advisers (returned students who have been on the program) and another program-group gathering.
- 3) Our partners abroad require forms quite early for many programs, and our deadlines allow us to get them the required forms by their deadlines. Meeting the deadlines guarantees housing for our students, gives them better course selection, etc.
- 4) With the size of our staff and the number of students we work with (prospective students, those going abroad, those currently abroad, and returnees), we need the deadlines early so we are able to meet the needs of all groups to the best of our ability.

### UW-Eau Claire Ranks 18th in the Nation for Study Abroad Participation

The latest IIE Open Doors report has been released and UW-Eau Claire is ranked 18th in the nation for study abroad participants from Master's degree institutions during the 2001-2002 school year.

The majority of students who go on UW-Eau Claire programs go on semester or year-long programs. The Center for International Education has a strong commitment to have students study abroad for a longer period of time.

The belief in longer-term programs is that the longer a student is in their host culture, the more he/she will gain academically, personally, and culturally.



Courtney Cain (middle), a UW-Eau Claire nursing major, studied at the University of Limerick, Ireland. Courtney has also studied on the Cuernavaca, Mexico summer program.

### UW-Eau Claire to Send a Record Number of Students Abroad this Spring

Study abroad participation continues to rise at UW-Eau Claire. This spring 232 students will be studying abroad on UW-Eau Claire programs.

Students will be studying in Australia, Austria, Costa Rica, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Scotland, Spain, and Sweden.



## Program Types

There are many different types of study abroad programs including: Area studies, Integrated, Island, and Language. Some of our programs are more than one type. We will highlight a different program type in each newsletter.

Our focus in this issue is **Language** programs.

Students on language programs are able to meet some or all of their language requirements while abroad. Language programs offer the chance for students to improve proficiency and confidence by immersing themselves in the host language.

Typically students take all or most of their classes in the host country's language. Some programs are intensive language programs, while others allow students to take a variety of courses in different disciplines depending on their language levels.

Examples of language programs are:

- Austria
- Costa Rica\*
- France
- Germany
- Mexico\*
- Spain

\*There is no language prerequisite prior to arrival.

## Summer/Fall/Academic Year Programs Update

During the fall semester we are often able to extend the application deadlines for programs that do not have space limits. We have extended the deadline to January 15, 2004 for the following summer, fall, or academic year programs:

Lismore, Australia

Graz, Austria

Sønderborg, Denmark

Alnwick, England

Harlaxton, England

Lancaster, England

London Student Teaching

Limerick, Ireland

Kansai Gaidai, Japan

Riga, Latvia

Cuernavaca, Mexico—

Intensive Spanish track

ITESM, Mexico

Pietermartizburg, South

Africa

Växjö, Sweden

Chiang Mai, Thailand

Please encourage your advisees or students in your classes to apply.

They can get more information on all the programs on the web:  
[www.uwec.edu/cie](http://www.uwec.edu/cie),  
 or in our office,  
 Schofield III.

*"I had a wonderful time, learned a lot, met great friends. Everyone should do this! In the big scheme of life, what is four months? It was the best experience I have had with my tuition money - every penny was well spent."*

**-Kristina Gropp, Public Relations Major**

## Safety and Security for Students Abroad

One of the frequently asked questions we get in the Center for International Education is, "Is it safe to study abroad?" Safety is a top priority, and we have taken steps to be sure that we are prepared to help students, should it be necessary. It is important to note that in most parts of the world where UW-Eau Claire students are studying abroad, they are not at any greater risk than they would be in the US.

The Study Abroad staff consults a variety of sources to guide us in making decisions. All public announcements, advisories, and warnings that the U.S. Department of State issues are sent to the Center via email. We review and evaluate these announcements, and pass them to our students overseas.

We are also in constant contact with our partners around the world. They keep us updated on events in the city and country where our students are and advise students on safety as well.

If any major safety updates are sent to the students (e.g., when the war in Iraq began), those will also be posted on our website: [www.uwec.edu/cie](http://www.uwec.edu/cie). If you have any questions on our safety procedures, please feel free to contact us.