



The International Educator

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

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Working with Departments to Create Advising Tools for Their Students

The Study Abroad Staff is currently working with Chemistry, Economics, and the College of Business to create departmental "Major Advising Sheets". These handouts will assist faculty and students in determining which UW-Eau Claire study abroad programs offer courses in their major or minor.

The Major Advising Sheets will include general information on study abroad, a description of the best programs for a particular major, and a listing of courses currently offered in that major, with their UW-Eau Claire equivalents.

Would your department benefit from being involved in this project? We would welcome hearing from interested department chairs. The process is simple:

- 1) We prepare a list of all courses for your major/department offered at our sites abroad, including any UW-Eau Claire equivalencies that have already been established.
- 2) We send the list to you, along with brief course descriptions.
- 3) You decide equivalencies for the courses and return the list to us. We pass the information on to the Registrar's Office.
- 4) We draft a Major Advising Sheet for your students and faculty.
- 5) We send the draft back to you for insight on the best language to use to reach students/faculty, make suggested changes and send to you for use!

If your department would like to participate, please email studyabroad@uwec.edu.

"I loved Southern Cross University-the staff, the classes and the people were all amazing and I learned a lot in and out of the classroom. I learned so much about myself in Australia - it was an amazing opportunity to be completely independent and to challenge myself to try tons of new things. Everyone should study abroad if they can - I feel so lucky to have had this experience!" -Julie Carey, Communication Disorders Major

Stacy Grams recipient of a Gilman Scholarship

Stacy Grams, a UW-Eau Claire Social Work major, won a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for her spring 2004 semester in Guadalajara, Mexico. One of 173 scholarship winners nationwide, Stacy is participating in the UW-Eau Claire/ITESM exchange program. 990 students applied for spring 2004 scholarships.

The program encourages students to choose non-traditional study abroad destinations (outside of Western Europe and Australia) and supports students who have been traditionally underrepresented in study abroad. It is a Congressionally funded program, administered by the Institute of International Education.

International Classroom Speaker Program a Success

Last fall, 24 International Classroom (IC) speakers visited 111 classrooms, reaching approximately 400 students with study abroad information!

Surveys of study abroad applicants indicate that classroom presentations by past participants is one of the most effective ways to get students thinking about studying abroad. The combination of a faculty member allotting class time to introduce study abroad, and a peer relating his/her international experience, sends students a powerful message about both the importance and the feasibility of study abroad.

IC speakers prepare a 10-minute presentation about study abroad in general, illustrated with stories from their own international experience. Speakers are available to come to your classroom this semester. If you are interested, please email studyabroad@uwec.edu



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 **Integrated** programs.

Integrated programs give students the chance to enroll directly in the university abroad and study with students from the host country. The courses are taught by local faculty members. These programs typically offer students the most choices in courses and allow for a more complete immersion in the host country.

Examples of integrated programs are:

Australia*

Austria

Lancaster & Winchester/England*

Hessen/Germany

Ireland*

ITESM/Mexico**

Sweden*

*There is no language requirement prior to arrival.

**There is only no language pre-requisite for Business courses.

Spring Study Abroad Application Deadlines

We begin accepting applications on January 15, 2004 for **spring semester programs**. The application deadlines are:

March 1 for:

Lismore/Australia & Dalkeith/Scotland (semester)

April 1 for:

Graz/Austria; San Jose/Costa Rica; Sønderborg/Denmark; Alnwick, Harlaxton, Lancaster, London/England; Caen/France; Wittenberg/Germany; Limerick/Ireland; Kansai Gaidai/Japan; ITESM/Mexico; Valladolid/Spain; & Växjö/Sweden;



Nick Koshenina (2nd from right), a UW-Eau Claire MIS major, studied at the University of Southern Denmark in Sønderborg, Denmark.

Helping Students Plan for Study Abroad

Students often don't know where to begin when looking into studying abroad. Below are ways to help them prepare. Have them:

1. **Plan ahead:** Encourage your advisees to start thinking about study abroad early. With advanced planning most students can earn credit for their majors/minors and can fulfill GE requirements.
2. **Define expectations:** Help students think of the long-term impacts of studying abroad. Discuss with them career goals and academic plans. Also help them have realistic goals (e.g., improving their language skills, instead of thinking they will be fluent after a semester abroad).
3. **Prepare for the experience:** Discuss where the student wants to go and why they would like to go there. Although academics are a priority for students, they are also thinking about things like timing, location, housing options and finances. Let them know about the resources available, to aid them in their decisions, that are on-campus: the CIE, returned students, international students, other faculty members who have been to that country, etc.