



# The International Educator

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

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## Help Your Advisees Reflect on Their Experiences

When you ask a returned study abroad student how their time abroad was, you often get a response like “Great” or “Fun”. While we all know that living in another country is fun, students also gain many other skills abroad. These skills and traits are things employers look for when hiring new employees. A few of the traits that can be gained by studying abroad are: resourcefulness, adaptability, independence, risk-taking, dependability, cultural awareness, and the ability to think contextually.

Studying abroad often influences students’ career, academic, and personal development, but students don’t always have a willing audience to listen to the changes that have occurred. And students are often not able to verbalize all the skills they have gained from studying abroad right away. As an adviser, you can help them talk through their experience by asking some open-ended questions about what they did. Helping them delve deeper into their experience when talking with you will help them bring up some of those same ideas in job interviews, graduate school applications, and in other contexts.



**Andrew Buza, a Computer Science major, at the Golden Pavilion in Kyoto while studying at Kansai Gaidai University in Japan.**

## Returnee Resources

After students return from studying abroad there are many resources available to them. We offer ways for returnees to get involved with the office through the Peer Adviser and International Classroom Speaker programs.

The monthly e-newsletter “Global Outlook” highlights opportunities to go abroad after graduation, and also focuses on an alum who studied abroad who now works, lives, or volunteers abroad.

Finally, there is a section on our website for returnees listing scholarships & ways to go abroad again. You & your advisees can find more information here:

<http://www.uwec.edu/CIE/sac/program/Returnees.htm>

## Faculty Teaching & Research Abroad Opportunities

You will soon be receiving the call for applications for one of the international opportunities regularly made available to UW-Eau Claire faculty and academic staff through the Center for International Education. Applications will be due March 1, 2006.

Regular opportunities are available in China, Japan, and the United Kingdom. There are also possibilities in other countries where we have agreements. More information on each opportunity will be included in the mailing.

## Did you Know?

The 2005 Open Doors report, using statistics from the 2003-2004 academic year, states: “Since the academic year 2001-2002 U.S. students studying abroad [nationwide] has gone up by almost 20%.”

<http://opendoors.iienetwork.org/?p=69735>



## Academic Year/ Fall/Summer 2006 Update

We have accepted 86 students for 15 fall or academic year programs, and 134 students for 8 summer programs.

### Student Profile: Maria Carvalho, Costa Rica



Maria with her host family.

Maria Carvalho, a Social Work & Latin American Studies double major and Spanish minor studied abroad in Costa Rica during spring 2004. She chose Costa Rica because she wanted to study Spanish & was interested in the developing world.

Maria said, "I liked the school and the way they set up the program. They included educational field trips, had us live with host families, and had a service learning project in a rural community." She thought her host family was integral to the experience. They gave her perspectives on Costa Rican culture that she wouldn't have had otherwise.

The service-learning project in a rural community was also an important feature of the program for her. Maria explained, "That project showed us how a lot of people live in Costa Rica. Our host families in Tibás are all economically stable, but this project introduced us to people who were not doing as well. We were able to integrate into their lives without taking over, since we worked with them on the project."

While in Costa Rica Maria started hearing about child sex tourism through classes, conversations with her family, and reading newspapers. When she came back she did more research and wrote papers on the topic for courses at UW-Eau Claire. For her Social Work major Maria must complete an internship. She went back to Costa Rica in May and started to set up that internship with an organization called DNI, a children's rights organization. She will complete her internship in fall 2006.

**Courtney Kostick, (right), a Mass Communication: Public Relations major & French minor in Caen, France during spring 2005.**

*"The experience here [in Wittenberg] was an authentic German experience. I was immersed into the culture and language and found my time very enjoyable. I feel that I have grown in my language capabilities and as a person. I feel that I have made a real connection to my host mom and therefore a real connection to another culture. My education definitely reached a higher level through my studies here."*

**-Michelle Dins, Graphic Design Major & German minor**

## Spring Study Abroad Application Deadlines

We begin accepting applications on January 17, 2006 for **spring semester programs**. The application deadlines are:

**March 1** for: Lismore/Australia & Dalkeith/Scotland (semester)

**April 1** for: Perth/Australia; Graz/Austria; Santiago/Chile; San Jose/Costa Rica; Sønderborg/Denmark; Harlaxton, Lancaster/England; Caen/France; Wittenberg/Germany; Limerick/Ireland; ISEP; Kansai Gaidai/Japan; ITESM/Mexico; Valladolid/Spain; & Växjö/Sweden.