



The International Educator

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

Volume 1, Issue 4

May 2004

Can Freshman Apply to Study Abroad?

Yes! Freshman can apply during their first semester on-campus to study abroad, but they must complete two semesters at UW-Eau Claire before their program begins. Given that our application deadlines are about nine months in advance, many students arrive on campus already planning to apply.

Why do students need to complete one year of study at UW-Eau Claire to participate in a UW-Eau Claire study abroad program? First, the requirement ensures that students have an established record of academic success at the university level. High school grade point averages are not always an accurate indicator of college academic performance. If first-semester freshmen were able to apply to study abroad during their second semester at UW-Eau Claire but did not earn the required GPA, cancellation could take place within days of their planned departure. This would cause many problems for the students, ranging from on-campus class registration and finding housing to loss of money through airfare cancellation and program fees already expended on their behalf. A roster change at such short notice would cause similar problems for our partners abroad.

Other benefits to students being on campus for a year prior to their studying abroad include participating in the full semester of orientation activities we provide and being able to do solid academic planning, in terms of courses they should take on campus prior to going abroad, courses they may want to "save" because they are offered abroad, and courses they can plan to take on return.

Freshman can study abroad beginning the summer after their first year at UW-Eau Claire, and many do. In fact, 44% of our accepted students for 2004-2005 are freshman!

"Studying abroad has taught me so much about myself and other people that I have no idea how people have any idea what a variety the world has without studying abroad. It opens doors you never know existed in the first place, and once you walk through you never even want to turn back."-Courtney Cain, Nursing Major



UW-Eau Claire students (l-r) Lila Moritsch, (Management major), Danielle Prosser, (Elementary Ed major), and Sally Paulson, (Social Work major) are all currently studying in Harlaxton, England.

Financing Study Abroad

Many students are concerned with the costs of studying abroad. We have a wide range of program costs. Basic costs of student life on some UW-Eau Claire programs—tuition, fees, room and board—are similar to costs on campus, plus international airfare. Costs of living in other countries can be higher than in the US, and some programs require non-resident tuition. Finally the exchange rate will affect program costs.

Since Eau Claire's deadlines are early, students have about nine months from the time of acceptance to plan how they will finance their program.

Financial aid can apply to program costs. The financial aid is based on actual costs in the host country, including the cost of round-trip airfare.

There are also scholarships available both on-campus and nationwide. We also encourage students to think of creative fundraising ideas.

Information on scholarships & creative fundraising can be found on the Financial Resources section of our website at: <http://www.uwec.edu/CIE/sac/finaid.htm>



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 **Area Studies** programs.

Area Studies programs allow students to explore a region or country more in depth. Common courses offered are history, social sciences, and the humanities. Area Studies programs typically have UW-Eau Claire students studying with other international students at the host site.

Examples of Area Studies programs are:

Austria
 Chile
 Costa Rica*
 France
 ISU/Hessen* &
 Wittenberg/Germany
 Japan*
 South Korea*
 Latvia*
 Cuernavaca* & ITESM/Mexico
 South Africa*
 Spain
 Thailand*

*There is no language requirement prior to arrival.



Sarah Knutson (Elementary Education major) is currently studying in Costa Rica. She is with **Gabriel**, a student from Escuela de Llanos in Llanos de Cortes, Bagaces where UW-Eau Claire students worked on a two-week Service Learning project.

Our students helped a local school by creating a vegetable garden, putting up fencing, painting murals, and making a volleyball court.

New Programs Update

There are seven new study abroad options for students applying for summer 2005 or fall/year/spring 2005-2006 programs! We have added programs in Chile, China, Germany, Korea, and Mexico.

Our new program in **Chile** is our first in South America. This fall or spring program requires four semester of university-level Spanish and is designed for advanced students of Spanish. Students can take classes with international students and across other departments (depending on their language level) at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago .

Our new summer programs at Jinan University, in Guangzhou, **China** & at ITESM in Monterrey, **Mexico** are designed for nursing students. At Jinan, students will learn about Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture. In Mexico, the students will study Spanish for Medicine and Traditional and Contemporary Healthcare Systems in Mexico, and participate in field trips organized in collaboration with local and national health departments.

We have expanded our summer offerings in **Germany** through the Hessen-Wisconsin exchange. Students can now study at the International Summer Universities (ISUs) in Fulda, Frankfurt, Kassel, and Marburg. At each of the ISUs the participants take part in an intensive German course and take seminars in English or German. Each seminar has a specific theme or focus which changes each year. ISU-Frankfurt focuses on business, economics, and political science. ISU-Fulda's themes are health and environmental issues. Kassel's ISU has a focus on architecture/urban planning, politics/economics, organic farming, and German studies. Finally, Marburg's ISU themes are economics & politics, culture, and the media.

Suwon City, **South Korea** is another new summer option. Students at Ajou University can take courses in: business and economics, Korean language (beginning and intermediate), society & politics, and history. All students are required to take a Korean Culture Workshop.