

Are you missing out? Study Abroad.

# 2012/2013 Study Abroad

# Ambassadors



*Andrew* Dagleish

*Masaryk University, Czech Republic*

Going on Study Abroad to the Czech Republic in 2011 was something that I had been planning for years. I was already familiar with the country and I had wanted to really immerse myself into its culture further.

As a pre-Law student, I can walk away from my Study Abroad experience confidently knowing that I have allowed myself to be better acquainted with different social situations and bureaucratic functions; something that I would like to apply into any future education and employment. The country I was in had different expectations of customer service, different customs, and often I had to teach myself to become more assertive in order to get whatever information I needed.



*Bhreagh* Farquharson

*University of Central Lancashire, England*

My Study Abroad year at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston, England was much more than just a year of university. The people I met, cities I traveled, and cultures I embraced have left a permanent impression on who I am.

My classes exposed me to a schooling system that I was not accustomed to. This helped me realize that the same result can be achieved through alternate approaches. I worked with students from around the world and learned not only the class content, but also about my classmates' cultures and how to efficiently work with individuals from different backgrounds.

I realized that cultural differences don't hinder work groups or friendships, but make them more interesting.



*Bradren* Krenz

*University of Belize, Belize*

Studying abroad was an amazing experience that educated me culturally, academically, and personally. My trip to Belize allowed me to see what it was like for people to live in a third world country. Many people worked all day to put food on the table and clothing on their children. I had no idea how fortunate I was to be able to go and buy food from the stores by simply using a card.

The academics in Belize are also far different than I had expected. Adapting to the learning style was, however, not difficult, and it allowed me to get the most out of the courses I was participating in. My experience abroad emphasized where my interest laid both academically and personally.



*Chelsea* Bauer

*NHTV Breda, the Netherlands*

In the fall of 2010, when I had the opportunity to Study Abroad in the Netherlands, I lived in a house with 12 other international students from various European countries. Over our time together, we became like a family. This helped me adapt to my new surroundings even while I was living so far from home. With the help of my diverse roommates, I learned to be flexible to other cultural traditions and ways of living. For example, each week we would sample traditional homemade dishes from each roommate's nation. One of my favourites was a delicious Hungarian goulash.

I began to listen more often to international news, finding myself feeling more connected to people across the world through my friendships.



*Courtney* Kaleta

*Université de Nantes, France*

Since the age of four I have had a longing to travel, especially to France. I asked for easels and berets for Christmas so that I could make believe that I was an artist painting on the Seine River. I dreamed of going to Paris and seeing the Eiffel Tower with all its lights. When I entered into university at TRU, my ambitions and strong passion of witnessing the culture, the society, and the landmarks of France were even more desired, and TRU Study Abroad made them possible in my third year.

One of the greatest impacts of Study Abroad on my life was my French speaking abilities. Throughout my stay, listening, observing and repeating were daily tasks, and I eventually learned the correct way to order a café, or ask for directions to the TGV.



## Emily Bootle

*University of Central Lancashire, England*

Without a doubt the decision to enter into the Study Abroad Program at TRU was one of the best decisions I've made so far in my life.

Ask anyone who has travelled and they will tell you that a large part of their experience was the people they met along the way, and not just the places they visited. I had a full flat with two British girls, one Northern Irish girl and another international student from Madrid. At the end of our time together none of us could remember ever going through a transition phase between strangers and close friends.



## Felicia Girouard

*International University– Vietnam National University HCMC, Vietnam*

I had always had a dream of traveling, so when I was told that I could travel while finishing my degree I was completely ecstatic. I am the first person in my family to travel to a different country. My father, mother and grandmother are so proud of the person I have become.

I have realized that love and compassion can translate through any language and I have discovered that amazing friends can be made just around the corner.



## Harry Gillett

*Université d'Angers, France*

During my five months spent studying in Angers, France, I checked off a lot of firsts in my life. First time living abroad, organizing and taking a solo vacation, eating a squid...I also faced a lot of challenges: living in a non-English speaking country, navigating the French bureaucracy, etc. Through these many firsts and challenges, I learned a lot and grew as a person, but I think the biggest impact of Study Abroad was on my confidence.

From planning a trip to Spain with friends, to travelling solo to Portugal; from flying RyanAir to Prague, to cycling for four days through the rainy Loire Valley, each trip was a learning experience, and prepared me for the next.



## Hayley Candow

*Southern Cross University, Australia*

Studying abroad in Australia was the most exhilarating and fulfilling experience I have ever had.

My experiences in Australia were some of the best I have ever had, I made some amazing friends that I will never forget and hopefully will keep in contact with for years to come.

Moving to a new country and new university made me take what I am doing at school and life into perspective and it challenged me in ways that I didn't think possible. I became more independent than I have ever been, I felt like I could do anything on my own, and am more confident in myself.



## Jovan Gill

*Johannes Kepler Universität, Austria*

I had never lived away from home and have no background in German, so I was literally stepping into a place that was completely unknown. Everything was a brand new experience for me, from grocery shopping to living on my own. Putting myself in a completely new environment and having to learn almost everything was probably the best thing I could have ever done.

My favourite class while abroad was called Culture and Language Policies of the EU. Instead of being a lecture, it was more of a discussion class where the students inputs, ideas and views were what drove the class. I discovered I had opinions about many things that had never crossed my mind before. I became more culturally educated and aware, resulting in me appreciating different people rather than comparing and judging.



## Kamal Kaur

*Université Catholique de Lyon, France*

I was on my own in a completely unfamiliar place, with nobody to hold my hand, while I ventured across this narrow bridge of independence. Traveling independently tested and strengthened my organizational skills, my street smarts, and my ability to view the many mishaps such as annoying overfilled public transport facilities as potentially funny anecdotes instead.

I opened up to the culture from the start, and in turn, it filled me entirely with everything it had: a history, people, a language, a set of customs and traditions, and a way to live, eat, drink, and breathe.

Personal growth and development are key components of the university years and I am convinced that the Study Abroad Program offers endless possibilities towards those ends.

## Katelynn Daly

*International University, Vietnam National University HCMC, Vietnam*

I learned to understand and communicate with people who have very different ideas and cultural beliefs from myself on not just a social level, but also on an academic one.

Study Abroad helped me chose my educational direction and helped me to understand the importance of taking the initiative to meet new people and try new things; whether it was forcing myself to do a speech in a foreign language in front of an entire school, or eating raw pig intestines and having to pretend they were delicious.

These experiences have taught me invaluable lessons, such as how to handle myself in new and unfamiliar situations, and how to adapt to various learning styles.



## Krystian Miszkurka

*Dong-A University, South Korea*

By being the first TRU student to travel and study at Dong-A University in Busan, South Korea, I was graciously given the opportunity to see the evolution of a country that is on the rise to take over the number one spot in many of the world's top markets.

As a student who still has the opportunity to live at home, I feel as though there are many parts to my life that have been sheltered and I have not had the opportunity to experience for myself. By moving halfway across the world for a semester, I feel like I have grown to be more mature, independent and my ability to problem solve has improved.

While I was living in South Korea, in my eyes I discovered the country to be a hidden gem.



## Liam Roerslev

*Université Catholique de Lyon, France*

I did not think of myself as a very naïve person before doing my semester abroad. Now that I am back home and reflect on my experience I realized how naïve I was before I left. Study Abroad opened my eyes to a different culture, a different language, and a different group of people. Not only did I learn from the culture of the country I was living in; I learned about cultures of all the different people I studied with.

Study Abroad taught me the importance of learning a second language and maybe even a third. In a bilingual country such as ours I found myself being quite embarrassed not being able to speak French. With studying in Europe mostly everyone I met could speak their native language, plus English and then on top of that were learning French alongside of me.



## Melissa Lalande

*Southern Cross University, Australia*

I studied at Southern Cross University, located in Lismore, Australia for one session. I really enjoyed my time studying at this institution. It was a good opportunity for me to leave Kamloops and explore a new country.

For me Study Abroad was the best thing I could have done, as it took away the urge of stopping school and going travelling. I was able to accomplish that without ending my studies, which I am very appreciative for. I was able to de-stress and have other things on my mind other than school for once.



## Rebecca Purdy

*Université Pierre Mendès-France-Grenoble, France*

My yearning to discover new things and live in a country different from my own gave me the courage to put all the "ifs, ands and buts" in the back of my mind. I have never regretted my choice to go on a Study Abroad exchange, because the experience Study Abroad gives you is priceless.

I left Grenoble feeling both sad and happy. Sad that I was leaving the life I built and loved with the friends I made and the places that we frequented. Happy that I made the most out of this amazing experience, and proud of what I accomplished. I am very passionate about the Study Abroad experience, and if given the choice I would be an international student for the rest of my life.



## Preston Arens

*Université de Franche-Comté, France*

When describing how Study Abroad changed my life, I hardly know where to begin. This amazing experience has left me a better, if not completely different person in so many areas.

Though I had already taken four semesters of French before my departure, I could still not hold a half decent conversation. 10 months in France, however, has left me effectively bilingual, and that has opened so many doors. As a history student, my research possibilities have skyrocketed, as thousands of new sources have been unlocked for me. And as a traveler, I can now feel free and comfortable to really discover the francophone areas of the world, without being restricted to bilingual tourist areas.





## Seth Gehring

*Al Akhawayn University, Morocco*

I have traveled quite extensively throughout my life so far, but having had the opportunity to complete a semester of Study Abroad in another country was a whole new experience for me.

My Study Abroad experience has already had so many far-reaching results in my life and I learned so many things about myself that I had not necessarily known before. I became more confident in life, more independent, exploring things that were new to me, and expanding my horizons to include things that had previously been foreign to me. I realized how important people are in my life and came to appreciate the friendships that I made during my time there, some of which I am sure will last for a long time into my future.



## Shannon Rex

*University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Wales*

My time in Wales was nothing short of life changing. One of the main reasons I chose to Study Abroad was to challenge myself and conquer my shyness, and I did exactly that while having a lot of fun along the way. I became much more confident in my own abilities and gained a stronger sense of who I am and who I want to be.

Studying abroad also helped me think about a career path that I will enjoy. I now know that I want to work in an international environment, and I want to continue my education in the United Kingdom. I fell in love with the rich history of Wales, the amazing culture, and the friendly and accommodating people.

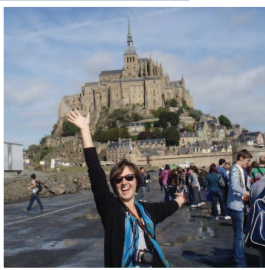


## Sheanna Moore

*Southern Cross University, Australia*

I was able to learn and experience new cultures and a new way of life, which helped open my eyes to the rest of the world. I made amazing lifelong friends from many different places and countries around the globe that I never thought I would have so much in common with.

I was able to learn new aspects of myself that I can take with me throughout my journey of life. This opportunity and educational experience taught me more than just school. Who knew you could study in another country, yet you would obtain so much more than just a semester or two of credits? I will remember my Study Abroad trip for the rest of my life.



## Skye Hines

*Université Rennes 2, France*

Studying abroad was not only my first year abroad, but also my first year away from home.

Not only was everything in a different language, but it was also taking place in a different culture. The simple act of opening a bank account took days to understand.

My Study Abroad experience started the day I arrived in France, and still carries on to this day. I discovered many new things and my capabilities. Studying abroad was not only a life-changing experience, but it also truly enriched my degree and has brought to light numerous new opportunities available to globally-minded students.



## William George

*Abo Akademi University, Finland*

My semester studying abroad in Turku, Finland was an amazing experience and had a great impact on my life. It was the first time that I traveled on a commercial airline, the first time visiting another country (outside of the United States), and the first time living in a shared apartment. There were a lot of "first time experiences" that I was able to have while abroad and I am so happy I was able to go to school and travel at the same time.

The way you view the world as a whole changes after you go abroad and escape your safety bubble. After being abroad, I am much more aware of the world and now realize that there is so much out there that I have to go visit.

# Double Degree



## Margaret Massier

*University of Gävle, Sweden*

After ten months studying in Sweden and seven weeks travelling the Mediterranean I can't even imagine what my life would be like if I hadn't chosen to Study Abroad.

The appeal of studying abroad of course was first about the fact that I would be adding an extra level to my degree. By studying in Sweden for ten months and completing a thesis project while there, when I graduate I do so with both a Bachelor of Arts from TRU and a Bachelor of Science from Sweden. After completing my studies in Sweden however, it seems the school experience, as important as it is, comes second in significance to the communication skills and life experience I developed when there.

I cannot believe how many new experiences I've had in only one year.