

THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION ABROAD

2024 - 2025

STUDY  ABROAD



ANNUAL REPORT

UVU

EDUCATION ABROAD

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The value of education abroad is evident from the feedback we get from students who often tell us that the time they spent with their professors and classmates in Spain, Vietnam, or Brazil was one of the best things they did in college and that the experiences they had in Germany, Japan, or Samoa changed their lives. From doing business in Belgium to collaborating with nonprofits in Zambia, UVU students took their classroom learning to an international level last year. We are looking forward to another impactful year with innovative programs planned for new destinations next year like Australia, the Philippines, and Switzerland.

My own study abroad and other international experiences I had in Europe and South America in college set me up for a lifetime of international learning that has enriched my life and given me perspectives that make me a better instructor in the classroom. I can see this same excitement and energy in my staff who often talk of their international experiences as they scheme new international adventures both in their professional and personal lives. I love working in an environment where staff and faculty across campus have a passion for sharing what the world has to offer with our students.



The Office of Education Abroad awarded \$40,000 last year in faculty program development grants and student scholarships to make these opportunities available to more students. Our discounted tuition model for summer study abroad makes studying abroad a good deal for students who need the academic credit to advance in their degree studies. Many of our students qualify for financial aid and several of our students were awarded nationally competitive Gilman scholarships for study abroad last year. Study abroad may be more affordable than many students think! I always encourage students to meet with our advisor to see what their options are.

Whether interning in London, studying for a semester in Thailand, or traveling with a UVU professor to China, UVU students are making their marks on the world and picking up many ideas from around the world that they bring home with them. I invite you to learn more about how you can get involved in Education Abroad at UVU as a faculty, staff, or student because we know that you'll bring back to our campus innovative ideas that can be implemented right here in Utah.

OFFICE OF EDUCATION ABROAD STAFF



Brent Spencer
Education Abroad Director
bspencer@uvu.edu

Paige Myers
Education Abroad Program Manager
pmyers@uvu.edu



Gwenaley Hardy
Education Abroad Budgeting Admin
ghardy@uvu.edu

Mikey Silva
Education Abroad Marketing and
Student Recruitment Assistant



STUDY  ABROAD

uvu.edu/educationabroad | 801-863-8709

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EDUCATION ABROAD

MISSION STATEMENT

The UVU Office of Education Abroad facilitates opportunities for students to engage with the world outside of

the United States by managing logistical support and advising for international, for-credit education abroad programs.



2024-2025 Statistics

How did Students hear about Study Abroad?

Digital Signs.....	24
Flyer.....	114
Instructor.....	250
Other.....	49
Social media.....	11
Study Abroad Coordinator.....	34
Study Abroad Expo.....	118
Word of Mouth from Student.....	102
Academic Advisor.....	3

Study Abroad Participants - Historical Numbers



323

Faculty-Led
Summer Study
Abroad Students

7

International
Internship
Students

4

Semester
Study Abroad
Students

3

Summer Partner
Study Abroad
Students

337

Total Participants on
Study Abroad Programs:
2023 - 2024

\$21,000

Awarded For Faculty
Grants To Develop Study
Abroad Programs

\$23,500

Awarded For Study
Abroad Scholarships



2025 | FAC

STUDY

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FACULTY-LED SUMMER PROGRAMS

Y ABROAD



Student Experiences

[This program] has impacted me in so many ways. It was so fun to explore Europe and learn about how business works there. It also helped me connect with people that I wouldn't have been able to otherwise and taught me so much about networking with both my classmates and professionals.

- Belgium Business, Summer 2025

I learned that people are the same everywhere. Culture is rich and thriving everywhere.

- Brazil Anthropology, Summer 2025

I learned so many things while studying abroad in China and Taiwan, and I will always cherish the memories made there. The biggest thing I learned was the depth and meaning of Chinese culture. I have been learning Chinese for over 10 years now and I have always thought it is such a beautiful language, but being able to go to China added a whole new aspect of appreciation to the love I already had. The small details within each character and its' meaning are numerous and very purposeful. Being fully immersed in the language and culture for almost 2 months was such a special experience, not just for educational purposes but also for the shaping of my personal life and passions. I gained a deeper desire and motivation to continue studying Chinese, rooting from the feelings of admiration and amazement I felt on this trip.

- China & Taiwan Language and Culture, Summer 2025

I learned lots! I feel like the main theme that stuck out to me from visiting the Faroe Islands was that no matter where I am or what I am doing in the world, I am making an impact. All the people there are so humble about what they are doing but they truly are doing so much to benefit the world, and I wish more people would recognize them for that. It also has taught me what good leadership principles look like in action.

- Faroe Islands, Student Leadership Studies, Summer 2025

The experiences I had inside the schools in Finland and Estonia helped me to become a better teacher. I was able to learn about the different education system and how I can apply their teaching strategies in my classroom.

- Finland & Estonia, Summer 2025

I learned a deep knowledge and appreciation for the culture and language while studying abroad in Germany. I have been learning the language for years, but experiencing the country first-hand for the first time within this study abroad program deepened my knowledge and love the country that I had not previously expected. I think the professor's design of the program allowed me to see the country differently and more vividly as he highlighted history as an important aspect of learning about the culture. Getting to know the history and then connecting what I learned first-hand through museums, field trips, etc. was an invaluable experience I will never forget. This program has impacted me in many ways as I plan to return to the country independently to study or work in the future because of my experience. One month in this study abroad program was enough to ignite a spark in me to return in the future as I love learning about languages and cultures more deeply now. Additionally, this study abroad experience provided me the tools and confidence to travel abroad again in the future; something I was terrified of prior to studying abroad. In a personal aspect, I plan to continue practicing and learning the German language, even after my college years.

- Germany Language & Culture, Summer 2025

I learned a lot about how Europe maintains policies and how they affected the efficiency and preservation of the citizens and their culture, including and most importantly everyday life. One specific thing was how policies indicated only a certain number of vehicles in one place, and how everything was close by are accessible by public transportation or walking.

- Germany & Spain Outdoor Rec, Summer 2025

I have learned immensely. I'm more fully understand [architecture] and the context in which most European countries have been influenced by ancient Greeks Romans, and many other civilizations of the land. Understanding this gives me ideals and ideas to why other European countries have conquered and colonize so many corners of the world I now understand more fully concepts of architecture of human life of religion and art. It was truly a life-changing experience and the information I learned helps me understand life differently.

- Greece & Italy Architecture, Summer 2025

This impacted me in so many ways. I feel like I learned so much history and beauty and appreciation of art. Going abroad made me really self-reflective and I discovered a lot about myself as well.

- Italy Art & Art History, Summer 2025

It opened my eyes to how similar people are at their core despite entirely different backgrounds and cultures.

- Japan Language and Culture, Summer 2025

Studying at Oxford was one of the most amazing experiences. Being in a place where learning has happened for hundreds and hundreds of years has broadened my mind and helped me to see the way that so much in society, culture, and government has been affected and grown by those who have come before us.

- Oxford MA Constitutional, Government, and Civic Leadership, Summer 2025

Student Experiences

Spain provided immersion so I could experience Spanish in a natural, non-classroom environment. I learned how to speak much better with strangers. I also learned how to write better in Spanish.

- Spain Language and Culture, Summer 2025

I was deeply inspired by the things we saw and did, I made artwork I was proud of, and learned about myself more as an artist, like what kind of artwork I like to create

- UK & France Art Book Project, Summer 2025

Having graduated now because of this program, I really feel more set on a path of my choosing. Before this trip I didn't know what direction I wanted to take towards the next steps in my career, but now I feel as though I have more clarity. Seeing that many shows reignited my love for live theatre and was a good awakening to realize theatre is so much more outside of Utah.

- UK Theatre, Summer 2025

This study abroad was incredible. Absolutely life changing for me. Being able to be in Vietnam and learning and seeing everything with my own eyes is something everyone needs to experience. I learned things there that a textbook will never show me. This includes things like the culture, food, politics, economic standings, everyday life, the language and more.

- Vietnam Political Science, Summer 2025

This experience was eye opening for sure, and humbling. It also helped me understand more of what it looks like to be a social worker and the impact that they make.

- Zambia Family Science, Summer 2025

2024-2025 Faculty-Led Programs



Balkans - Emergency Management
Faculty Program Directors:
John Fisher & Margaret Mittelman



Belgium - Business
Faculty Program Directors:
Maureen Andrade & Eugene Seeley



Brazil - Anthropology
Faculty Program Director:
Mel Gurr



Faroe Islands - Student Leadership
Faculty Program Directors:
Benjamin Johnson & Christopher Goslin



China & Taiwan - Language & Culture
Faculty Program Director:
Alex Yuan



France - Language & Culture
Faculty Program Director:
Tammy Christensen

Finland & Estonia - Education
Faculty Program Directors:
Malynda Tolbert & Keri Measom



Germany - Language & Culture
Faculty Program Director:
Jeff Packer

Germany & Spain - Public Lands & Policy
Faculty Program Director:
Scott Williams



Greece & Italy - Architecture
Faculty Program Directors:
Paul Monson & Aliko Milioti



Italy - Art History
Faculty Program Directors:
Charlotte Poulton & Jason Lanegan



Italy - Biology & Geology
Faculty Program Directors:
Alessandro Zanazzi & Weihong Wang



Japan - Language & Culture
Faculty Program Directors:
Hillary Howell & Tim Stout



Oxford - MA CGCL
Faculty Program Directors:
Robert Burton &
Matthew Brogdon



Oxford - Origins of the Constitution
Faculty Program Directors:
Troy Smith & Matthew Brogdon



St. Kitts & Nevis - Global Health
Faculty Program Directors:
Raiden Gaul & Mykin Higbee



Samoa - Nursing
Faculty Program Directors:
Troy Nelson & Sean Bennett



Spain - Language & Culture
Faculty Program Director:
Mari De Dios



United Kingdom - Theatre
Faculty Program Directors:
Stevie Rimke & Jen Delac



United Kingdom - National Security
Faculty Program Directors:
Mary Kent & Brandon Amacher



France & UK - Fine Art Book Project
Faculty Program Directors:
Howard Fullmer & Travis Lovell



United Kingdom - Writing & Literature
Faculty Program Director:
Shelton Weech



Vietnam - Political Science
Faculty Program Director:
Hong Pang

Zambia - Family Science
Faculty Program Director:
Colleen Peterson

2024-2025 Partner Programs



Collin Daniels
Summer Internship Program
Summer 2025, Peru

Sabrina Hutchins
Cambridge ISI Program
Summer 2025, Cambridge, England



Kelvin Dylan Sharp
Summer Internship Program
Summer 2025, London, England



Ashley Marquis
ISA - TEAN Program
Spring 2025, Florence, Italy



Elise Skarda
ISA - TEAN Program
Fall 2024, Thailand



Isabela Fish
ISA - TEAN Program
Summer 2025, Florence, Italy



Jadyn Tucker
ISA - TEAN Program
Fall 2024, Barcelona, Spain



Naomi Aboussou
ISA - TEAN Program
Spring 2025, Paris, France



Kate Rasmussen
ISA - TEAN Program
Spring 2025, Florence, Italy



Weston LeBaron
ISA - TEAN Program
Summer 2025, Paris, France

Student

Naomi Aboussou – Paris, France 2025
Spring Semester



Studying abroad in France was a dream come true. Not only was I able to continue my learning, but I also had the chance to explore a country rich in art and culture.

During my time in France, I formed amazing friendships with students from all over the world—some of them even from different universities in the United States. Being abroad wasn't always easy, especially when I missed my family, but having people from my own country and others who were going through the same experience made all the difference. We bonded both inside and outside the classroom, and we still keep in touch even after returning home. I can confidently say that studying abroad gives you lifelong friends.

With so many countries close by in Europe, traveling was an absolute blast. You could get almost anywhere by bus, train, or car, which made spontaneous weekend trips some of my favorite memories. Traveling with my friends opened my eyes to new perspectives, and I learned so much about their cultures through our everyday conversations and shared experiences. Exploring places like London and Belgium, trying new foods, and laughing over the little moments made us feel like a family away from home.

If you're looking to broaden your understanding of the world, consider studying abroad. I promise you won't regret it!

Reflections

Kim Cavan – Belgium Business Summer 2025



To summarize my experience on the Belgium Study Abroad, it was absolutely life changing. Being a non-traditional student, I wanted to take full advantage of every opportunity during my time in college and I'm so grateful I did. I was able to grow personally by building confidence as a solo international traveler, live as a European local, and forming life-long friendships with fellow university students.

I am also grateful for the opportunity to grow professionally by networking with diverse industry professionals, especially in the HR industry. I was inspired by the Belgian culture, sustainability efforts within business strategy, and learning about local challenges in business management.

One of my favorite memories was being surprised with a picnic in the park—complete with a delicious local cheesecake—where I was able to celebrate and reflect on the experience with my study abroad classmates. I truly enjoyed going on company visits and meeting with executive leaders in business. Their insights into how we can grow as students really helped encouraged me to continue excelling in my studies and taking opportunities as they come.

The biggest takeaway from my study abroad experience was learning to believe in my confidence. I had the idea to interview HR professionals in Belgium and was surprised by their enthusiastic response. Through these conversations, I was able to learn more about their roles, what they look for in potential employees, and how I can continue to develop my skills while still in school. I am incredibly grateful for my professors' assistance in helping to make these conversations possible, as they provided me with a unique and valuable perspective from professionals in my field.

This study abroad program has had a lasting impact on my personal and professional growth, and it has shaped how I approach my education and future career. I would encourage any student considering a study abroad opportunity to pursue it—it was truly worth every minute and every penny.

Mari de Dios – Study Abroad Faculty Program Director – Spain Language & Culture

I have been leading the UVU Study Abroad in Spain since 2017. The program focus is on the main influential cultures—Roman, Jewish and Arab—that gave structure, traditions, and life to the country of Spain.

We begin in Barcelona, capital of the Catalonian community, where we explore several thousand years of culture and history. We visit traditional landmarks like the two-millennium-year-old Roman Coliseum in Tarragona and the Basilica de la Sagrada Familia, Antoni Gaudi's Roman Catholic church in Barcelona, Spain. We see the Alhambra in Granada and the Mezquita in Córdoba to appreciate the beauty and distinctive Middle Eastern architecture. The Royal Palace and El Escorial monastery in Madrid are like a book that teaches about the European kings and queens. We can't forget Segovia with its amazing Roman aqueduct declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1985 and the Arab Alcazar famous for its ship-like shape on a rocky crag that inspired Disney's castles.

We continually practice the language and create unity and friendship. Students learn to appreciate and respect diversity and other ways of life. I want to highlight some students' comments: "I met some of my best friends." "Not only I was able to learn about the culture, but live it." "I fell in love with Spain, with the food, with the people. It changed my life."

Every time that I do Study Abroad, I feel a powerful mix of wonder, and reverence as I observe our students in self-reflection and fascination as they discover new ways of life. For me as the director, it is one of the main highlights of my career.



Faculty

Dr. Ben Johnson & Dr. Chris Goslin – Faculty program Directors, Faroe Islands - Student Leadership Studies

During May 2025, Drs. Goslin and Johnson traveled to the Faroe Islands as part of the Faculty-Led Leadership Studies program at UVU. They explored the remote archipelago, nestled between Iceland and Scotland, and discovered why it is often called Europe's best-kept secret, enjoying its scenic vistas and learning how local communities achieve world-class feats with limited resources. We retraced footsteps linked to original Viking sagas and immersed ourselves in Torshavn's cultural scene, touring iconic sites like the National Museum, parliamentary buildings, ancient Viking villages, and historic churches. Our group also visited famous film locations, including areas featured in James Bond's *No Time to Die*.

































Outdoor experiences captivated the students who hiked to breathtaking waterfalls, watched puffins and wildlife, took scenic boat tours, and observed innovative infrastructure such as the world's first undersea roundabout. Academically, students enrolled in one or more leadership courses and engaged in rich dialogues with local and national leaders. They met research scientists from SEV, who were working toward transitioning the nation to 100% renewable energy by 2030. They interacted with legal and economic scholars crafting strategies for future national development, and with technological innovators who were transforming the country's digital infrastructure. A maritime scientist led discussions on resource management and climate variability, and students also met thought leaders in religion, culture, government, and industry.

Overall, the Faroe Islands leadership program provided participants with transformative cultural immersion, hands-on leadership exploration, and exposure to pioneering environmental, legal, economic, technological, and maritime experts—all set within a stunning, rugged landscape where small teams accomplish significant goals.



Reflections

Anticipated 2025-2026 programs:

- .....Australia – World Geography
- .....Belgium – Business
- .....Brazil – Language and Culture
- .....Brazil – Music
- .....China & Taiwan – Language and Culture
- .....Faroe Island – Leadership Studies
- .....France – Language and Culture
- .....Germany – Language & Culture
- .....Greece & Italy – Architecture
- .....Guatemala – Dental Hygiene
- .....India & UK – World Geography
- .....Italy – Entrepreneurship
- .....Italy – Biology & Geology
- .....Japan – Language and Culture
- .....Nepal – Exercise Science
- .....Netherlands & France – Art & Art History
- .....New Zealand – Anthropology
- .....Oxford – Origins of the Constitution
- .....Oxford – MA Constitutional, Government, Civics and Law
- .....Philippines & South Korea – Information Systems and Technology
- .....Samoa – Nursing
- .....Spain – Language and Culture
- .....St. Kitts & Nevis – Global Health
- .....UK – Theatre
- .....Tonga & New Zealand – Education
- .....UK – National Security Studies
- .....UK – English & Literature
- .....UK & France – Humanities
- .....UK & Germany – Art and Design
- .....Geneva & NYC – Political Science
- .....Vietnam – Political Science
- .....Zambia – Family Science

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THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION ABROAD

LA 209

(801) 863-8709

studyabroad@uvu.edu

uvu.edu/educationabroad

