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## Study Abroad Newsletter - September Edition

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*Keeping you up to date and connected with our office and the world!*



 **WELCOME BACK** 



### **DIRECTOR'S WELCOME**

Welcome to the fall 2020 semester, and to our new and improved Office for Study Abroad newsletter! COVID-19 has changed our lives and our plans for this semester, but our office continues to work hard to help you find opportunities to study abroad. In this month's newsletter you'll find information and resources to help prepare for your journey, tools to help you tell your study-abroad-story as you prepare for your career, destination highlights, and inspirational memories. We look forward to engaging with you virtually this semester, and to seeing who you will become through the experience of education abroad. Your journey begins

[here!](#)

- Dr. Jennifer Donaghue

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# WHAT'S NEW IN *Study Abroad?* ✈️



## APPLICATIONS FOR SPRING 2021 ARE OPEN IN GW PASSPORT

For many of us, by December 2020, it will have been a long time staying in one location. Start thinking now about all the amazing opportunities that could be out there for you for 2021! Apply to study abroad this Spring and make it your best semester yet! Deadlines vary - check GW Passport for more information!

**Our office recommends applying to up to 3 programs to make sure you have ample options!**



Search for Programs & Apply Now in GW Passport



## NEW OSA WEBSITE LAUNCHES TODAY

The time has finally come! The Office for Study Abroad is thrilled to announce the launch of our brand new website at the same address - [studyabroad.gwu.edu](http://studyabroad.gwu.edu)!

The new website was designed to be a more efficient tool for students and families to understand the steps and processes for studying abroad at GW! You can search for programs and understand the benefits of different program types and find

detailed and easy-to-find information on OSA services, policies and health and safety protocols! We are excited for you to begin exploring the new site!

[Check out the New Website](#)

## PROCESSING DELAYS FOR U.S. PASSPORTS

Are you ready to go abroad!? Don't let the plane leave without you!

The U.S. Department of State has recently announced longer processing times for new and renewed U.S. passports. If you do not have a passport or your passport expires in less than 6 months after the end of your desired study abroad program, we recommend not letting the time pass you by! Apply or renew as soon as possible!



[See the Full DoS Announcement](#)



## STUDY ABROAD ADVISING - VIRTUAL FOR FALL 2020

Even with a virtual semester, our advising team continues to be available for student meetings and appointments. Are you an applicant or interested student and have questions about the study abroad process? Are you a returnee student and need support or have questions about the transfer credit process? Interested in having an advisor meet with your student organization, club or group? Set up a virtual meeting with your study abroad advisor or one of our peer

advisors, or visit our advisors virtual offices for resources and information!

[OSA Advising Services](#)



## UNIVERSIDAD TORCUATO DI TELLA - GW EXCHANGE

"One of my favorite memories from my semester in Argentina was to backpack through the north of Argentina with a group of fellow international students. I remember sipping on Mate, the popular native tea, in the early hours of dawn while gazing at the colorful desert mountains that are ubiquitous in the northern provinces of Jujuy and Salta. The experience of hiking through meandering valleys - that were used as transportation networks by the Inca Empire in its pre-Columbian heyday - instilled a greater appreciation of mother nature, or "pachamama" as the locals called it."



Cody Etlin, ESIA '18, International Affairs and Geography Major

Interested in UTDT? Apply Now by Sept 25

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

All OSA events for the Fall 2020 semester will be virtual, WebEx events. Register to any of the below events AND MORE with the link below.

View all & Register to any of the September Events

## STUDY ABROAD FAIR WEEK

Join us for a week of OSA program highlights with each day focusing on one of the five undergraduate schools at GW. Learn more about the programs OSA recommends for students in your school from our staff, partners, Resident Directors and study abroad alumni! For more information on which programs will be featured and on what days/times, check the WebEx link above. All sessions are open to all students regardless of the school focused that day!

**Dates:** September 14 - September 18

**Time:** Times vary, check the WebEx link above for more information, Note: no session starts earlier than 11am EST

## GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP EVENTS

Are you a Pell Grant Recipient interested in studying abroad? Or are you a Gilman recipient returning from study abroad? For interested applicants, join us to learn more information about the Gilman scholarship and preparing your essays. For our Gilman recipient returnees, join us for a session on working on your follow-on projects! Check the WebEx link for specific dates and times.

- Gilman Q&A Info Sessions
- Gilman Writing Workshop
- Gilman Returnees: Let's Talk Projects

**Date:** Dates vary, check the WebEx link above

**Time:** Times vary, check the WebEx link above

## **STUDY ABROAD 101 INFO SESSIONS**

Join us for our September editions of our Study Abroad 101 info sessions. Learn all the ins and outs of studying abroad -- the application process, financing opportunities, transferring credits, and more! If you're interested in studying abroad, this session is a must! Additional sessions will be held throughout the Fall semester! RSVP with the WebEx link above.

**Date:** Dates vary, check the WebEx link above

**Time:** Times vary, check the WebEx link above

## **GW GLOBAL BACHELOR'S PROGRAM INFO SESSION**

The GW Global Bachelor's Program is GW's multi-destination study abroad program for a select group of highly motivated students in CCAS, GWSB and ESIA. Join this introductory webinar to learn more! RSVP with the WebEx link above.

**Date:** Tuesday, September 22nd

**Time:** 6:00pm - 7:00pm

## **STUDY ABROAD RETURNEES: MARKETING YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE**

Calling all study abroad alumni! Join us for this event in collaboration with the Center for Career Services to learn how to turn your study abroad experience into marketable skills. Learn more about where to display your study abroad program on your resume, or how to speak to your experience abroad in an interview. RSVP with the WebEx link above.

**Date:** Wednesday, September 23rd

**Time:** 2:00 - 3:00pm



## HOW STUDYING ABROAD CAN HELP YOU PROFESSIONALLY

"The benefits of studying abroad are multifaceted. Not only is it a chance for unique personal growth as you challenge yourself in a new culture, environment, and oftentimes a new language, but it also is a great opportunity to gain qualities that will make you more competitive in today's job market. Through a study abroad experience, you develop skills that few other candidates have such as foreign language abilities and hands-on knowledge of a particular region, society, and culture. You also acquire skills that many employers are eager to have in their employees, such as the ability to

communicate and collaborate with those from a different culture or the knowledge of how to effectively adapt and thrive in a new environment. Pursuing the chance to study abroad and then learning how to effectively communicate the value of that experience to employers will help you stand out against a sea of other qualified candidates and will give you the ability to contribute to your future employer in a meaningful way."

**Sharon Swabb, Career Coach**  
Graduate Student Services, ESIA

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## **STAFF & RETURNEE SPOTLIGHT**

### **ALEXA ROSDAHL, PEER ADVISOR**

*Overcoming the challenges of studying abroad in the time of COVID.*

"In spring 2020, I studied abroad in Dublin, Ireland at the University College Dublin and returned home early due to COVID-19. My study abroad experience was incredible to say the least, despite some of the challenges presented by a global pandemic. It was overwhelming at times, especially when overhearing conversations on public transportation by locals about the political responses due to the pandemic. Although there was much confusion and no one knew what was going on, everything turned out just fine. My abroad institution made an announcement about transitioning to online classes just at the time that GW Study Abroad called all students home from Ireland and the UK; I would be able to complete my courses



at University College Dublin from my home in Arizona! Yes, due to time zone changes, I did take some final exams at 3 am and had to say goodbye to Ireland earlier than expected, but I would not have traded it for the world. Being put in a situation where there may be no right answer, in an unfamiliar place, has given me the confidence to take on any tough situation."

Meet the Peer Advising Team

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## **FOLLOW THE ABROAD EXPERIENCE!**



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