WHERE WILL YOU GO?

THIS IS A NEW PERSPECTIVE

THIS IS STUDY ABROAD

YOU GO?

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES ON GLOBAL ADVENTURES
Study abroad with UEA

Study abroad students have some incredible stories to tell. Read on for insight into how global travel and international partnerships with world-class universities have changed lives.

As a student of Translation & Interpreting, my year abroad heightened my linguistic and academic skills and gave me a newly formed outlook on life.

Maizie studied abroad at Universidad de las Américas Puebla, Mexico, and International Christian University, Japan during the academic year 2019/20.

Are you ready to find a new way to develop both academically and personally? Do you want to break through your boundaries, get out of your comfort zone and discover new cultures? From language skills and friends for life, to incredible stories and enhanced academic transcripts. Travel the world and see it from a new perspective.

Study abroad options:
- 4-year degree with a year abroad
- 3-year degree with a semester abroad
- A summer studying abroad.*

*Credit not currently transferable to UEA degree.

YOUR OPTIONS

Explore more. Studying abroad is an exciting addition to your UEA experience.
Coming to study in Helsinki, Finland, was daunting to say the least. Not only was I about to move to another country for a year, but I was going by myself. However, despite the initial worries, I had a great time. Studying abroad was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made. As an education student, I decided to study in Finland because of its world-renowned education system. I was interested to see the Finnish schools for myself and learn about the context in which students learn. Needless to say, the experience exceeded my expectations.

I fell in love with Finland, which made it so much more difficult to leave!

Danielle studied abroad at the University of Helsinki, Finland during the academic year 2018/19.

Alongside studying, being in Finland also meant that I was able to travel a lot. I had the chance to visit Russia, Estonia and Sweden, opportunities that I would not have had if I had stayed in the UK. It was amazing to be able to cheaply see and experience so many new places!

Helsinki itself is a beautiful place to study. Not only has studying abroad given me the chance to experience a Finnish university, but I’ve also been able to enjoy the nature and culture. From attempting to learn Finnish, to going to the sauna at any opportunity, Helsinki is so different to anywhere else I’ve been. One of the most exciting parts about it is that one moment you can be in the city centre, and half an hour later you can be by an island or going for a hike in a forest!”

We asked Joe, a history graduate and former Study Abroad Ambassador a bit more about his experiences.

2: Why did you choose to study abroad?

The whole concept is fantastic and there are loads of perks. It’s an opportunity to experience a different lifestyle, try new things and make lasting friends.

1: Where did you choose to study and why?

I wanted to get out of my comfort zone, but I also wanted to go somewhere without a language barrier. I did a lot of research before choosing to study at Hobart and William (HWS) in North America. It’s worth thinking about the lifestyle, area and type of school you’re interested in. I chose HWS because it’s a really small school, just two thousand students in a tiny town called Geneva, upstate New York, which is unbelievably beautiful. It was a refreshing change from the busy cities of Norwich and London.

3: What was it like when you arrived for the first time?

Obviously it’s a bit nerve-wracking! But everyone was so kind and caring and HWS have an amazing Exchange Coordinator to help you settle in. I joined the soccer team and gaming society and making friends was easy.

4: Were there surprises along the way?

The biggest surprise for me was the sense of community that you get when you go to a smaller uni. In the first few weeks I had met and interacted with almost everyone on campus. I was also a bit surprised by the weather! Arriving in January I really got to experience the winter. It was minus double-digit temperatures and there was thick snow that turned it into a winter wonderland.

5: What advice would you give students considering studying abroad?

The cool thing about studying abroad is that everyone’s experience is so unique to them. Make sure you do your research, but also be brave!
The UEA Study Abroad blog is a place where students past and present share their amazing experiences of studying abroad. Check out the blog for first-hand advice, insight and valuable reflections.

Read Louise’s Story

Louise went from Media Studies at UEA to the heart of South Korea. “Seoul National University is the number one uni in Asia! Located in southern Seoul, it is enormous. You can live, eat and sleep without having to leave the campus. I went to classes taught in English, and enjoyed every subject I tried. Don’t be scared to study in a country with a very different language, You don’t need to be able to speak Korean to get by!”

Read Vikki’s Story

At Monash University in Australia you can discover new foods and new territories, meet koalas and hike, zipline, surf, swim and cycle around one of the most fascinating countries in the world. Read more about student experiences in Australia and discover why Vikki’s ping pong skills are through the roof!

Read Cindy’s Story

“Throughout my time in Japan I’ve understood that experiences are there to learn from and challenges are needed to overcome your fears. No one said that it was going to be easy but being able to gather the courage to explore beyond your own comfort zone is a very rewarding experience.”

Read Solange’s Story

After returning from studying abroad in Mexico and Japan in 2019, Maizie secured her dream graduate job as a Coordinator of International Relations in a local government office in Japan. Here’s how she felt the experience prepared her for the world of work…

Maizie studied abroad at Universidad de las Américas Puebla, Mexico, and International Christian University, Japan during the academic year 2019/20

Studying abroad builds lifelong benefits, gives you qualities that employers look for and the confidence to succeed.

After returning from studying abroad in Mexico and Japan in 2019, Maizie secured her dream graduate job as a Coordinator of International Relations in a local government office in Japan. Here’s how she felt the experience prepared her for the world of work…

“AFTER spending a year in Puebla, Mexico and Tokyo, Japan, I felt more than equipped to start my job hunt when I got home. My time abroad heightened my linguistic and academic skills, but also gave me a newly formed outlook on life – in particular, a much stronger work ethic.

The list of career-enhancing skills developed on a study abroad programme are never-ending. It proves to employers that you are flexible and adaptable, having had to grow accustomed to new laws, traditions and customs. You also become more self-aware, as spending time abroad allows you to examine your own beliefs and biases. Moreover, employers will be impressed with your proactiveness which makes you seem confident and enthusiastic, able to make your own targets and reach them too. During my interview, we spent a considerable amount of time talking about my experiences living abroad, which I’m sure helped me stand out from the crowd.”

Good luck and believe in yourself! The gold at the end of the rainbow is closer than you think.

Maizie studied abroad at Universidad de las Américas Puebla, Mexico, and International Christian University, Japan during the academic year 2019/20
From studying abroad in Oregon to working in the Antarctic – Jack tells us of his experience.

“I studied for a year abroad at the University of Oregon and now I’m working as a Meteorologist for the British Antarctic Survey, currently as the youngest member of the 27-person-strong wintering team, alone for the next foreseeable months as temperatures and light stay too low for planes or ships to reach us.

A large part of my job is taking weather observations (from both observing and launching weather balloons) throughout the day and sending them to the global weather communications system. The job also consists of maintaining other instruments, that monitor things such as ozone concentrations and the tides, going into the ‘deep field’ to raise automated weather stations, as well as helping with day-to-day station life such as cooking, fuelling airplanes and digging up various things that get buried in snow!

Studying abroad certainly gave me the confidence to set out and work in such a remote environment for such a long time, and some skills I learnt whilst studying abroad have come in handy in some highly unlikely circumstances. The ability to throw myself at opportunities, and to have confidence in tackling such a wide range of tasks is not something I would have had without a year abroad, and having more friends to talk to in more time zones is definitely a bonus when it comes to the long winter nights!”

Studying abroad certainly gave me the confidence to set out and work in such a remote environment for such a long time.

Jack studied abroad at the University of Oregon, USA during academic year 2016/17
STUDENT PERSPECTIVES ON GLOBAL ADVENTURES

From the Ziggurats to Arizona to New Zealand – it’s easy. Studying American Literature with Creative Writing, Phoebe decided to split her year abroad between two countries - here’s what she had to say...

“I’ve just returned from what has been, without question, the best thing I’ve done so far in 22 years of life. Not only did I get to study abroad, I got to do it in two different countries. I spent the first semester in the red Arizona desert, and the second in New Zealand’s capital, Wellington, the world’s infamously wet and windy city. I really can only thank UEA Study Abroad for making the process easy, and giving me the confidence to go through with it in the first place.

I then got to experience Victoria University of Wellington - which is in hands-down the coolest city! I’ve ever been to! Whilst there I was lucky enough to dabble in Art History in affiliation with Te Papa Museum, learning about Pacific culture and geography. There are so many Polynesian Islands that I didn’t even know existed!

I have come away from this year abroad with a confidence I didn’t know I had, friends from all over the world, and a new surge of energy to push myself into even more challenging environments. My advice is this: Push yourself out of your comfort zone. It’s hard. But you can do it, and you will reap the benefits. Embrace being the new kid. Don’t hesitate. It’s your turn to start your adventure!”

“Don’t hesitate, you CAN do it, and you WILL reap the benefits.”

Phoebe studied abroad at the University of Arizona, USA and Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand during the academic year 2017/18

MORE WAYS TO FIND OUT WHAT’S POSSIBLE FOR YOU AND YOUR UEA DEGREE:

- Check the study abroad options on your UEA course search
- Look through UEA’s global exchange partners on our Study Abroad web page
- Speak with your Academic Adviser or your School’s Study Abroad Coordinator
- Attend autumn or spring talks and destinations events hosted by the Study Abroad team online or on campus to learn more about the options.

SOME FINANCIAL TIPS:

- Remember, home students pay only 15% of UEA fees during their time abroad. International students pay 25% of UEA fees. And there are no tuition fees at your host!
- Look out for funding opportunities from specific partners or for summer study.
- Check out the Student Loans Study Abroad supplement to see what sort of extra funding you can apply for.
Contact UEA Study Abroad and chat with an Adviser about your dream destinations:

E: studyabroad@uea.ac.uk
T: +44 (0) 1603 591871

Or follow us on:

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Thanks to all our brilliant contributors; Danielle, Joe, Will, Vikki, Louise, Cindy, Maizie, Jack and Phoebe for helping us share the study abroad experience, from your personal insights.