

SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY



Meeting Our Brothers and Sisters Around the Globe

OFFICE FOR STUDY ABROAD NEWSLETTER

FALL 2016

FALL IN AMBIALET, FRANCE

by Charles Olson

At a time when American campus culture is robed in autumn colors, football games, and changing weather, here summer continues within the beautiful light of Southwestern France. Classes are held outside and inside affording incredible views from the postcard elegance of this XI century monastery. This truly is a place of learning and transformation. Perhaps as it has always been.

This rural countryside invites students and faculty to kayak the Tarn River or hike the many hills of the gorge which surrounds the mountain foundation of this site. These views inspire the students engaged in all subjects from painting, photography, French, and religious history to anatomy and physiology. Jay Zee, Bobo, Shaq, and Nemo, the four dogs who watch over all of us here, create diversion and a sense of home to all who stay here.

The schedule is active with trips to Paris, Barcelona, and Toulouse laced throughout to expand the learning experience. Morning classes are ended (as are the afternoon sessions) by the sound of the monastery bells calling all to the table for lunch and dinner. This is a very important part of the education here where Sylvie, our ardent and most important professor in the culture of French food, beckons us to her cafeteria "classroom". Cuisine is such an important part of life and there is much to learn about life here within the diversity of French culinary arts. Every day and twice a day, new food and preparations are presented.

This fall, students are working on painting portfolios, studying online courses, practicing French, designing books of their photography, helping with English at the local elementary school, spending a weekend with a French host family in nearby Albi, traveling to Barcelona, Paris (for a week of on-site classes), London, Greece, Switzerland, and Germany. There is live music as well as the monastery welcomes in house and local musicians for jam sessions attended by the locals as much as by the students.



It has been ten years since the program here in Ambialet has been founded, and the university has had the wisdom to have pursued its development as it truly manifests a Franciscan spirit between countries and between peoples. All is transformative where the greatest education here, for all of us, is the education of the self.



Engineers in Technical Humanitarian Opportunities of Service Learning (ETHOS)

A collaboration between Saint Francis University and the University of Dayton

Founded in 2001 by a team of University of Dayton engineering students, ETHOS was created to take engineering curriculum beyond the classroom through service-learning experiences and technical projects across the globe.

Saint Francis University students now have the opportunity to take part in this program using their engineering skills for humanitarian purposes, serving others through practical engineering knowledge.

During a 10-week period between May and August, students will learn a new language, develop technical expertise, and experience a new culture with partners in Central America, South America, India or Africa. Projects are subject to the need of the location. Previous projects have included helping to build sustainable farms, clean water systems, road and building infrastructure; construction of solar refrigerators to preserve vaccines; solar powered ovens, assisted in the design of human waste treatment processes; and solar powered aquaponics systems. Students will earn ENVE and LANG credits. This program is being coordinated by Dr. Rachel Wagner.



INTERNSHIPS IN ITALY

Saint Francis University students now have internship opportunities in Parma, Italy for one month during the summer. The program is coordinated by Ms. Mary Jean Bujdos and offers credits in HUM 398/399, providing an assortment of opportunities for a variety of majors!

This program provides students with opportunities for cross-cultural study at countless sites in and around Parma, Italy. Every internship is customized to students' interests and career goals. Placements can include any approved discipline at cooperating agencies, hospitals, museums, or other appropriate venues for purposes of expanding cultural, social, and/or disciplinary perspectives as related to the global community. This particular internship not only requires on-site attendance, but also a presentation on campus during Multicultural Week.

Students pursuing almost any field of study may be interested in a HUM 398/399 Internship. Past experiences include: nursing students who had the opportunity to shadow in several hospital settings; occupational therapy students who participated in a seminar in Bologna and visited OT patients at the hospital and OT garden; political science students who attended local political gatherings and visited the Senate in Rome; public health administration students who shadowed a doctor in the Parma Hospital to study the Italian Public Health System. Additional opportunities may be arranged for HUM 398/399 (fermentation, biology, neuroscience, journalism, sports management, etc.).

Please note: *Humanities Internships for students in the School of Health Sciences are strictly hands-off and are not related to professional level coursework.*

BENEFITS TO STUDYING ABROAD

by Study Abroad GA, Chris Jimenez

A study abroad program will not only get you through another strenuous college semester but more importantly, it will teach you significant life lessons. These new tools learned while studying abroad will benefit not only you as a person, but your future career. Some students say they've already traveled overseas and experienced other parts of the world on vacation. Coming from a graduate student who has studied abroad, going on vacation abroad and studying abroad are two totally different things. There's something truly exhilarating about traveling independently from your family to another country and experiencing another culture and lifestyle with your classmates. The best way to learn about another culture is by immersing yourself for a long period of time. The hands-on class experience makes you aware of things which normally wouldn't be in your radar. It also gives you the opportunity to converse and work with the indigenous people of the community. During a vacation abroad, you tend to be around more tourists than locals and sightsee as opposed to being immersed into the culture. From the time I studied abroad my junior year to now being a college graduate, I've come to realize the long-term benefits from traveling abroad:

Becoming truly independent: Being independent is the very first thing a college freshman will learn. Up until college, parents are usually in charge of teaching their children about responsibilities and time-management skills. The experience of college is, for the majority of new students, a difficult learning curve in gaining independence. Studying abroad takes it a step further by challenging students to develop as individuals. While abroad, students will learn how to take care of themselves at a much larger scale than being home in the U.S.

The study abroad program that Saint Francis University offers not only transformed my undergraduate experience, but helped me to grow into the person I am today. The three times I studied abroad while at SFU was as a great compliment to my coursework as it broadened my education.

- Erin Mayer,
Business Major '16
(France, London, and Jamaica)

Change the way you think: Studying abroad will give you a much clearer, detailed perspective on the world. It will also change the way you view things. Having a long-term experience in another culture will only help you think objectively about oneself and help you recognize and appreciate diversity. Students will have the opportunity to strengthen their views on different cultures and understand and analyze problems from a longer-term worldwide scale.

Develop your language skills: For some students studying abroad, developing a language proficiently might not be their highest priority. Many courses around the world are taught in English and proficiency in English is mostly required in many job applications across all kinds of careers. However, learning an additional language can be an asset for anyone. While studying abroad, students will be faced with a language barrier and it is important to communicate through basic words and phrases. Learning another language could be beneficial for your future career path.

Travel more widely: Studying abroad is a chance to travel around the world. During weekends or any off times, students will have the opportunity to travel within and around that country. Personally, when I studied abroad in Parma, Italy for a month, I got to visit a different city each weekend, such as Rome, Venice, Florence, and Cinque Terre. Traveling every weekend gave me a new perspective on how it was like to live in Italy.

Make friends from around the world: Making friends from another country can be beneficial in many ways. Being part of an internationally diverse community can improve your quality of learning and provide a wider spectrum of different opinions. Students will have the opportunity to make lasting friendships with people in different countries. These connections are great for future trips and also a good stepping stone for an international professional network.

Cited Sources: QS Top Universities. (11, September 2014). "Studying Abroad: The Benefits" Retrieved from <http://www.topuniversities.com/student-info/studying-abroad/studying-abroad-benefits> . / International Student. "10 Benefits to Studying Abroad" Retrieved from <http://www.internationalstudent.com/study-abroad/guide/ten-benefits-to-studying-abroad/> .

2017 UPCOMING STUDY AND SERVICE ABROAD PROGRAMS

SPRING SEMESTER IN FRANCE

January 11 to April 26

Courses: French language, FNAR 102, RLST 390, BIOL 206, PUBL 230, and optional online courses

Visiting SFU Faculty: Dr. Patricia Fitzgerald

HUGS SPRING BREAK IN JAMAICA

February 24 to March 4

Volunteer opportunities in a clinic, nursing home, with an after-school program, and micro-lending project

Program Leader: Ms. Lisa Georgiana

HUGS SPRING BREAK IN COSTA RICA

February 24 to March 4

Service in medical clinics and with health education

Program Leader: Ms. Carrie Beebout

ASL IMMERSION IN JAMAICA

February 26 to March 4

Course: ASL 450 / Program Leader: Ms. Gale DeArmin

SPRING BREAK IN LONDON

February 23 to March 4

Course: Great Britain and the European Union in the Global Economy / Program Leaders: Drs. Randy Frye & Jim Logue

HUGS SUMMER IN JAMAICA

May 15 to May 20

Volunteer opportunities in schools, orphanages, soup kitchens, clinics and hospices / Program Leader: Ms. Lisa Georgiana

SCUBA DIVING IN ST. LUCIA

May, 2017

Courses: a variety of Marine Science credits

Program Leader: Mr. Nick Weakland

SPANISH IN COSTA RICA

May 18 to June 11

Courses: Spanish, BIOL 412 and PT Seminar II

Program Leader: Dr. Gail Drus

HIGH ANDES RESEARCH & SERVICE

May 17 to May 29

Courses: ENGR 497, ENVE 322, 415, 497, 498

Program Leader: Dr. Bill Strosnider

ETHOS INT'L ENGINEERING IMMERSION

10-week period between May and August

Courses: ENVE and LANG

Program Coordinator: Dr. Rachel Wagner



INTERNSHIPS IN ITALY

May 19 to June 18

Internship: HUM 398/399

Program Leader: Ms. Mary Jean Bujdos



FALL SEMESTER IN FRANCE

September 5 to December 16

Courses: French language, FNAR 102, RLST 390, BIOL 205, CORE 407, MATH 101, RLST 105, + online courses

Visiting SFU Faculty: Drs. Katherine & Art Remillard

ADDIO SPRINGTIME IN ITALY PROGRAM

Our long-running Springtime in Italy program has come to a close. The program began in 2003 and was led by Fr. Thomas Bourque and Fr. Michael Higgins. At that time, Italian language and religious studies credits were offered for participating students during this one-month program. In 2005 (and up to 2016) the program was led by Mr. Charles Olson. The program became our signature Fine Arts study abroad program. Students could earn credits in a variety of fine arts courses as well as Italian language. The site for this program has been in the city of Parma located in the beautiful Emilia Romagna region. Much gratitude goes out to the pioneers of this program, Fr. Thomas and Fr. Michael, for the implementation of such a wonderful opportunity for our students. And kudos to Mr. Olson for growing and continuing the program throughout the years. Over 200 students have benefitted from Mr. Olson's ongoing enthusiasm for the Springtime in Italy program. These students will always have fond memories of their once-in-a-lifetime experiences in Italy.

Grazie, Signor Olson

