

SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY OFFICE FOR STUDY ABROAD



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2017

The Ambialet Study Abroad Experience Spring 2017

by Dr. Pat Fitzgerald

We started our 105-day journey by getting on a bus on a cold and damp winter morning in Loretto, PA to our destination of a priory in Ambialet, France. Here we will live, eat, sleep, work, play, and pray. Our home away from home for the spring 2017 semester.

In a sense, we are pilgrims, as we are all travelers in a foreign place. In the four short weeks that we have been at the priory we have visited many cities and towns such as Ambialet, Albi, Saint Juery, Trebas, Toulouse, Rocamadour, Bordeaux, Pau, Lourdes, and Marseilles. Some students have had the opportunity to spend a weekend with a host family, a terrific total immersion experience. Others have had the chance to spend an afternoon in a local grade school with 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. Here all students learn a second language- English or French! We even went out one evening to play Bingo! Talk about having to know how to count in French!

Students learn about French culture through television, cinema, traveling weekly to an open-air market, and the simple act of eating lunch and dinner. The chef of the priory, Sylvie, prepares typical French cuisine for lunch and dinner. There are no complaints about the food! Groups of students are also given the responsibility to plan and prepare a complete dining experience that represents a particular region of France. Thus far, we have taken epicurean journeys to the Champagne region of Northern France, and the local Gaillac region. Students learned how to taste champagnes and wines, experience cheeses, main courses, and desserts from each region. These experiences last for many hours and are amazingly educational.

You may be wondering when is there time to take college classes in the midst of the co-curricular activities? Each week students have a schedule of classes, which include Religious Studies, Public Health, several levels of French, and Art History. Textbooks and lectures come to life in centuries old churches, cathedrals, and cities. On one particular excursion to the



Rocamadour- Group Photo



*Pau – Michael Beck, Zane Grimes, David Danielson,
Dr. Pat Fitzgerald*

Pech Merle art caves, we took a 29,000-year leap back in time in a cave where two teen-aged boys discovered the first known pre-historic art forms in 1922.

So, if you are asking yourself if a study abroad experience would be beneficial, let me just say that, in my humble opinion, students will learn much about themselves (intentionally or not) in the context of educational and social interactions. The impact of these experiences will travel with each student for the rest of their life. It is my belief that these experiences will facilitate a growth and awareness not available in a typical semester in college.

*Check out You Tube blogs by Shayna Boisvert
(current Semester in France student)
First in her series: <https://youtu.be/m1XSdFvIPDc>*

Semester in France Applications for the 2017 Fall Semester are Now Due!

Drs. Art and Kate Remillard will be teaching in France during the 2017 fall semester.

Courses to be offered in the fall include: BIOL 206, CORE 407, FREN 112, FREN 201, FREN 202, FNAR 102, MATH 101, RLST 105 and RLST 390

For an application email: studyabroad@francis.edu or visit: <https://www.francis.edu/semester-in-france/>

Local High School Students Studying in France

This summer marks the fourth year in which area high school students will be participating on the 10-day program at the University's site in Ambialet. Students from Bishop Carroll high school and Bishop Guilfoyle high school will earn three credits, as part of a dual-enrollment program with Saint Francis University, taking the course Early & Medieval Church History and Architecture. The course will include excursions to numerous historic places such as the Cathedral of Saint Cecile, and the medieval fortified city of Carcassonne where students can hike to the ruins of the Trencavel castle. Accompanying the students will be several high school teachers as well as SFU's

Arts France Studios and Workshops

Arts France is an immersive learning experience for the creative of heart, scheduled to take place July 17 – 29th. The program will include a Photography Workshop with National Geographic Fellow, Lynn Johnson (lynnjohnsonphoto.com); a writing workshop with Sarah Leavens (sarahleavens.com) and residencies for artist wanting concentrated time to create. For details about Arts France visit: www.leprieureambialet.com or email artsfrance@francis.edu.

Traveling abroad truly changed my outlook on the world and reminded me that not everywhere is like the U.S.

Maggie Blaisdell, BC Student
2016 Summer in France

assistant, Kelly Aharrah. The program will engage students in hands-on learning and spark the flame for study abroad!

Bon Voyage to all the Spring Break Adventurers

Spring Break in London

The School of Business's Spring Break in London program will depart on February 24. Drs Randy Frye and James Logue will accompany twenty-three students to London as part of the hybrid business course, Great Britain and the European Union in the Global Economy. Excursions include a financial district walking tour, a visit to Windsor Castle, tour of Lloyds of London, and a Jack the Ripper walking tour.

The London program opened my eyes to how truly incredible studying abroad can be. Everyone always says how life changing it is, because it is true. Some of the best times of my life happened in London, like visiting Windsor Castle and the Eye of London. I am so thankful I had this opportunity.

Taylor Peruso, Accounting
2016 Spring Break in London Program

HUGS International Service

The HUGS (Helping the Underprivileged by Giving our Service) program will be spending spring break in Costa Rica as well as Jamaica this year. Lisa Georgiana, director of HUGS, will be leading the Jamaica program with a group of 25 volunteers. Carrie Beebout will be leading a group of 19 students to Costa Rica. A variety of opportunity to offer service include working at medical clinics and a nursing home, assisting in an afterschool program for the local children, as well as facilitating a micro lending project.

It is very humbling to see how appreciative, trusting, and joyful the people of Jamaica are. Even though this was my fourth year being a part of HUGS, I learn more and more about myself each year. This experience is truly life changing.

Kilee Bomgardner, Business
2016, 2015, 2014, 2013 HUGS Mission Program

ASL Immersion

American Sign Language students, once again, have the opportunity for a true immersion during spring break. Sixteen students along with the program director, Gale DeArmin and assistant director, Jacquelyn Friday are

departing for Jamaica on February 26. Students will observe classroom activities at the Jamaican Culture School for the Deaf in Montego Bay. They will experience Jamaican culture while improving their skills by constantly using sign language during all times of the day with native language users.

This program opened my eyes to the even broader needs in the world and possibilities in life to the point where I switched my major. I now look forward to traveling on my own and living a life of service.

Amarisa Miles, OT/Psychology
2016 ASL Immersion Program

Upcoming Study Abroad Programs

High Andes Research & Service, led by Dr. Bill Strosnider, will take place May 17 to 29, offering credits in ENGR 497, ENVE 322, 415, 497, 498. **Internships in Italy**, directed by Mary Jean Bujdos, is scheduled for May 19 to June 18 with credits in HUM 398/399. **Scuba Diving in St. Lucia**, let by Nick Weakland, will take place in May offering a variety of Marine Science credits. **Spanish in Costa Rica**, led by Dr. Gail Drus, is scheduled for May 18 to Jun 11 offers credits in Spanish, BIOL 412 and PT Seminar II. **Fall Semester in France** with faculty members, Drs Art and Kate Remillard, include FREN language, FNAR 102, RLST 390, BIOL 205, CORE 407, MATH 101, RLST 105 (online courses optional). **2018 Spring Semester in France** with Dr. Bill Strosnider, include FREN language, FNAR 102, RLST 390, BIOL 206, and CORE 407 (online courses optional). And **Deaf Freedom Caribbean 2018**, directed by Gale DeArmin, scheduled for June 14-18, 2018 offering ASL 401. Watch for narratives on all of these programs in the summer newsletter.

New Program Assistant for Semester in France Program

by Chris Jimenez, Office for Study Abroad Graduate Assistant

We welcome our new program assistant for the Semester in France program, Brandyn Pryce (Saint Francis University Fall '16). Brandyn has a history with study abroad as he spent his 2013 fall semester in Ambialet and also traveled on the Spring Break in London trip in 2015. Brandyn has been on Saint Francis University's Deans List for Fall 2012, Spring 2013, and Fall 2014 semesters, as well as a member of the Mathematics Honor Society at S.F.U. Some of Brandyn's main duties as program assistant in Ambialet will include leading hikes and bike rides, shopping for wines, food and cheeses, for wine tastings and student hosted Saturday dinners! On Saturdays, the students choose a region of France and present the region to the group. They then cook food native to their region, supply cheeses from that region, and drink wines for the wine tastings from that region. Brandyn looks forward to many things on his second visit to France, the most being: hiking the local trails and roads, cycling in the Massif Central and Pyrenees, and putting his pilot's license to use by flying out of Le Sequestre airport in Albi. We wish Brandyn the best of luck in his new position.

Studying Abroad and Employment

by Chris Jimenez, Office for Study Abroad Graduate Assistant

Studying abroad can play a major role in your job search. I used to think studying abroad was an opportunity to travel the world with my college friends and make memories that would last a lifetime. I now realize the experience is also a unique asset in the job market world.

With only 42% of Americans owning a passport, studying abroad is a large leap in the direction of coming across as a unique individual in the job market.

Study abroad is an exclusive item to list on a resume because it is an experience in which projects qualities a potential employer values. For example, while traveling abroad, missed trains, unruly hostel roommates, and roadblocks is a natural occurrence. These situations improve student's problem solving skills and teaches resolve and control of a situation. To potential employers, these qualities are attractive and beneficial to their company.

Studying abroad demonstrates that you have a higher level of independence than the average college graduate does.

Spending time in another culture, with a different language and lifestyle, can be a lot to handle for anyone. Many study abroad students face this situation, and over time, not only overcome doubts but revel in their accomplishment. Potential employers are interested in job applicants with adventurous spirits who can recognize a stressful situation, evaluate, and find solutions.

Travel teaches time-management and scheduling

Study abroad students develop certain skills in traveling. These skills are learned and developed by coordinating hotels and public transportation such as trains, flights and bike rentals, all needed for their trip to be organized. This skill is another attribute that catches the eye of potential employers.

Employers do not want to hold your hand through your first job. Instead, they want to know with some certainty that you are focused, prepared, and motivated. These are all qualities obtained through study abroad experiences.

Source: <https://www.goverseas.com/blog/how-study-abroad-can-help-you-get-a-job>