

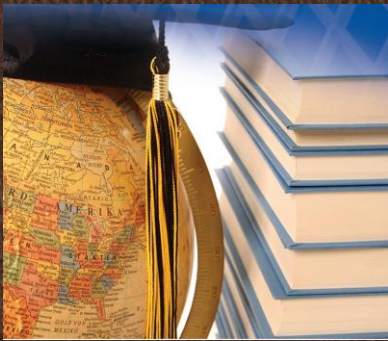
Carnegie Mellon University

Tartans Abroad

Fall, 2013

Volume 9, Issue 1

Study Abroad Newsletter
Edited by: Shannon O'Reilly
With contributions from current students abroad



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Hello from Pittsburgh!

My name is Shannon O'Reilly and I am the graduate student intern in Carnegie Mellon's Office of International Education. I am in my second year of graduate school at Indiana University of Pennsylvania studying Student Affairs in Higher Education. I will be graduating in May and I am hoping to enter the field of Study Abroad and International Education. I am passionate about working with students and recognize what an amazing opportunity you have in studying abroad and traveling. It is a life changing experience that I wish everyone had the opportunity to do.

Although I never studied abroad while I was in college, I moved to Berlin, Germany for two years after I graduated. Those were two of the most challenging, yet rewarding years of my life. I lived in a middle-eastern neighborhood in the heart of the city. On a daily basis, I never knew what to expect. Between festivals and markets, parades, Turkish weddings, and the call to prayer, every day was a new adventure. The opportunity to take day or weekend trips to other countries was incredible. In the two years I lived in Berlin, I traveled to Spain, France, Italy, and the Czech Republic. I miss that city, the culture, and the people so much, and hope to one day return.

As the semester is winding down, and the holidays are right around the corner, remember to take some time to enjoy all that you can and make the most of your time at your destination!

Sincerely,

Shannon O'Reilly
Graduate Intern - OIE



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"There is nothing like returning to a place that is unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered."
— Nelson Mandela

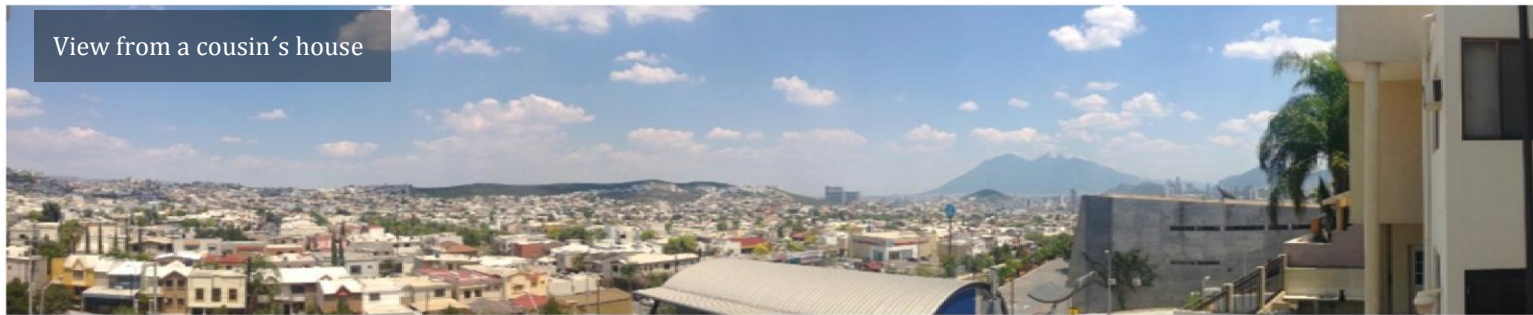
LYDIA UTKIN

MONTERREY, MEXICO

Fall, 2013

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View from a cousin's house



To be honest, I never thought that I would study abroad. It seemed like fitting a semester abroad into a Computer Science major was too difficult. Besides, why would I leave a university that I love and is considered the best in Computer Science? – I could always travel after graduating. After an extremely stressful third semester, I was deciding between taking a semester off or studying abroad for a change of scenery. After weighing the pros and cons (and a definitive no from my mom to the semester off), I decided to study abroad. I am really glad I did.

Monterrey is gorgeous - blue skies, sunshine, palm trees, and surrounded by mountains. Every day I am astounded by the beauty. The city itself is full of modern sculptures and new construction projects. It is a city full of industry, especially from the United States. Mexicans call Monterrey “Americanized” due to the amount of U.S. influence.

ITESM's campus is a reflection of a city- filled with architecturally interesting buildings and sculptures. There are large lawns, benches, and gardens that are always filled with students.

It is amazing how happy the students here are. They are constantly smiling, spending time outside, and conversing about plans for the weekend. That being said, they are extremely talented, hardworking, and passionate about the work they do.

The students have been nothing but helpful to me. Thankfully everyone speaks nearly perfect English so whenever I do not know a word or a phrase, they help me out. I have made several good friends, with whom I hope to keep in touch.

I began the semester a bit worried. I was taking four classes in Spanish and only one in English. However, my fears quickly subsided as I began to understand and speak more Spanish and realized that everyone at ITESM spoke English. I was surprised about how different the university structure is and especially how different the classes are. The students take 6 to 9 classes a semester for 9 semesters instead of 4 to 6 classes for 8 semesters. Because ITESM students take on average more than 15 extra classes than CMU students, material usually covered in one semester at CMU is spread over 2 or 3 here. Class sizes are small. My smallest is 4 people and my largest is 40. Class time is used for interactive learning. We do problems, draw molecules, or walkthrough computer programs. I am surprised by how enthusiastic the ITESM students are in class. They participate and ask questions without fear.

I have really enjoyed my time here so far. Between the tacos and soccer matches and big Mexican gatherings, I have definitely had the opportunity to experience Mexican culture. I am very grateful to have had the chance to participate in the Exchange Program. It has definitely been an exciting and eye opening experience. I've absolutely loved this past semester.

Biggest Surprises

Amount of people who speak English 95% of the students I have met at ITESM speak near perfect English. The other 5% speak well enough to hold an entire conversation.

Number of tacos a Mexican eats daily Every day, just about every meal – Mexicans eat tacos, tacos, and more tacos. Average number of tacos per sitting is 4.

Amount of USA presence From movies in theaters to songs on the radio to restaurants and stores to companies to football, there is a lot of USA here.

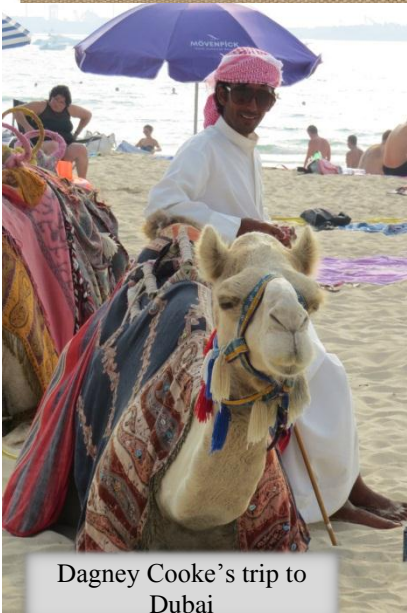


Boyfriend's family and me (middle)



ITESM campus

PHOTOS FROM ABROAD!



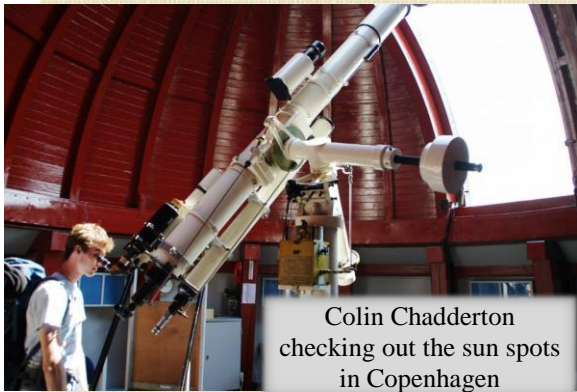
Dagney Cooke's trip to Dubai



Eric Balkanski in Shanghai



Colin Chadderton in Berlin, Germany



Colin Chadderton checking out the sun spots in Copenhagen



A rainy day when Lucy Pei was in Nicaragua



Arlane Gordon-Bray in Adelaide, Australia



Eric Balkanski in Hong Kong

Tweet your favorite pictures to: [#TartansAbroad](https://twitter.com/TartansAbroad)



Colin Chadderton napping in Roskilde, Denmark

"Certainly, travel is more than the seeing of sights; it is a change that goes on, deep and permanent, in the ideas of living" – Miriam Beard

DAGNEY COOKE

CMU QATAR

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I have been abroad for two months. There are things I miss, mostly my family, friends, and of course, Mac & Cheese, but being in the Middle East has been an incredible experience. I've traveled to Dubai, Spain, and am set to go to Oman later in the semester. You might think that I am having the typical study abroad experience, take one class, party all night, travel every weekend, living the dream overseas, but I'd have to say that being in Doha is a pretty unique way to spend a semester abroad. I'm taking a full course load of five classes, and while I have been finding occasions to travel, my semester really puts the "study" in study abroad.

Carnegie Mellon Qatar is situated in Education City, a compound made up of several different universities including Georgetown, Northwestern, Texas A&M, Virginia Commonwealth, Cornell, and a few others. Each school has its own building, but they all share the same Student Center and residence halls. I used to think that CMU was a small school, but then I arrived at the satellite campus. With a student body of about 450, it is smaller than my graduating high school class. There are only four majors, computer science, information systems, business administration and biological sciences. Considering there's only one building, it's not hard to believe that everyone knows everyone.

One thing I really love about the small student body is the class size. My two biology classes have 4 and 5 people respectively, and even my Principles of Economics lecture only has about 30 students. I feel like I've really connected with my professors, and a difficult course is much easier to handle when you're one of five students in the class.

Qatar has its ups and downs. The weather has just finally reached a nice 90 degrees after two months. Most of our time is spent inside, and there are shuttles to take us from the residence halls to the academic buildings. While I have been able to get out and see some of Doha, it's hard to do when you're walking around in the sweltering desert heat. We have to get a little creative when it comes to finding things to do.

My favorite thing to do in Doha is go to the Souq. It's a traditional outdoor market, and it has everything from restaurants and hookah bars to spice stores to souvenir shops. We'll go at night and eat kebabs, then wander around and look at all the different shops. It's a great way to spend an evening, and it really makes you feel like you're in the Middle East. Being in Education City can make you forget, yes the people are different but it's very much like an American college campus (just a much smaller one).

I still have two months to go, and I plan to do as much as I possibly can, both in Doha and the rest of the Middle East. Classes are a lot of work sometimes, but I fully believe that your experience is what you make of it, so my advice is to just try everything. Make yourself get up early on the weekend and go visit someplace new, go out to eat during the week, figure out when you don't have exams and book a weekend trip. Don't leave wishing you had more time to see that one museum or try that one restaurant - you have no idea how quickly your semester will fly by.



FUN FACTS!

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Please join the Office of International Education for the Welcome Back Reception on January 15th, 2014 at 4:30pm in the Danforth Room of the UC!

You can connect with others who have just returned from studying abroad.

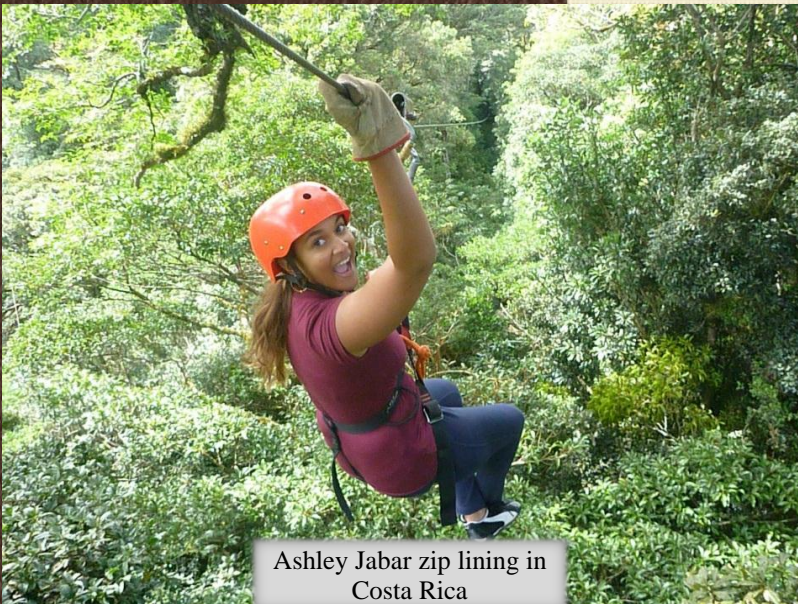
More information will be sent via email – we would love to hear all about your travels!

Famous People who have Studied Abroad: Are you next on this list?

Dan Brown – Spain
 Bill Clinton – United Kingdom
 Bradley Cooper – France
 Ben Fogle – Costa Rica
 Matthew McConaughey – Australia
 Gwyneth Paltrow – Spain
 Natalie Portman – Jerusalem
 Tim Rice – France
 JK Rowling – France
 Richard Simmons – Italy
 Gloria Steinem – India
 Desmond Tutu – London
 Alice Walker – Uganda
 Vera Wang – France
 Joss Whedon – United Kingdom

Additional information can be found at:

http://www.nafsa.org/Explore_International_Education



Ashley Jabar zip lining in
Costa Rica



Anusha Chinthaparthi in
Beijing, China

“Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we find it not.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Transferring your Credit: Follow-Up SATC Forms

If you have made changes to your course registration abroad and have not already made arrangements with your academic advisor(s) please use this [Follow-Up SATC Form](#) to update your courses.

Please complete all categories including URL's to specific courses. A copy of the form will be automatically sent to the student's Andrew account and forwarded to the correct advisor. Advisors will review courses and approve when appropriate.

Remember to register for classes for next semester!

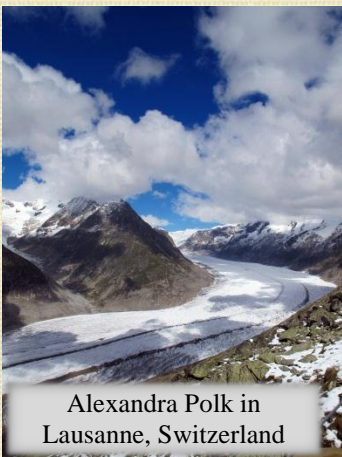
Log in to your SIO account to check your exact registration date.

Registration day assignments will most likely follow this schedule:

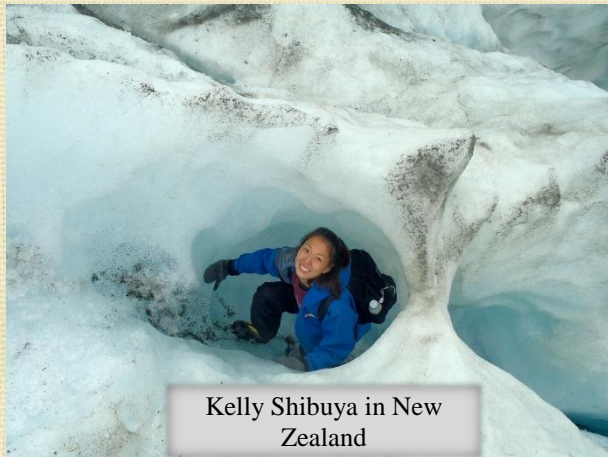
Monday, Nov. 18	Seniors + PhDs (no time assignments)
Tuesday, Nov. 19	Masters
Wednesday, Nov. 20	Juniors
Thursday, Nov. 21	Sophomores
Friday, Nov. 22	Freshmen
Monday, Nov. 25	Non-Degree students

For more info visit:

<http://www.cmu.edu/hub/registration/undergraduates/index.html>



Alexandra Polk in
Lausanne, Switzerland



Kelly Shibuya in New
Zealand

Tweet your favorite
pictures to:
[#TartansAbroad](#)

Want to live on-campus Spring 2014?

Room Selection will be ready shortly!

Visit

<http://www.cmu.edu/housing/roomselection/>

and sign in with your AndrewID to get started in the room selection process.

For any housing questions email:

plaid@andrew.cmu.edu



*"The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page."
- Saint Augustine*

TARTANS ABROAD

Returning Home

Returning home from studying abroad can often require as much adjustment as the study abroad experience itself. Readjusting to life and classes at Carnegie Mellon can also take time. However, the self-discovery and skills students gain while studying abroad can provide a foundation for new and exciting interest exploration at Carnegie Mellon and Pittsburgh. The Office of International Education, your academic advisor, and department can be strong assets in that exploration.

Carnegie Mellon is a university environment that thrives on contributions from its global citizens. Study abroad enables students to return to Carnegie Mellon and share their unique experiences and developed global consciousness with the entire community. We welcome the sharing of knowledge of global issues and international perspectives and enriching cultural experiences.

*"Travel makes one modest; you see what a tiny place you occupy in the world."
-Gustave Flaubert*

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<http://www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/oie/>

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