

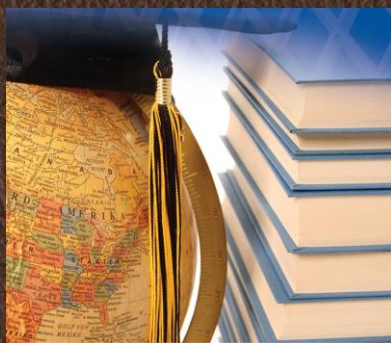
# CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

## Tartans Abroad

Spring, 2013

Volume 8, Issue 2

Study Abroad Newsletter  
 Edited by: Michelle Wadleigh  
 With contributions from current students abroad



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Greetings from Pittsburgh!

My name is Michelle Wadleigh and I am in my final semester of graduate school studying Student Affairs in Higher Education at IUP. I have spent the last two years working in the Housing and Dining office here at CMU and have been working as an intern for OIE for the past semester.

It is wild to realize I studied abroad over three years ago, because I still have such vivid memories and such close relationships with friends I met while abroad. My study abroad program was made up of three components; travel, service and performance. We travelled to a new city or country each week and stayed with host families from the area. In each city we spent a few days doing various service projects to impact the community in a positive way, and then ended each week with a two-hour musical performance that incorporated dancing and music from around the world. Through this six-month abroad experience, I travelled to Mexico, Sweden, Finland, Germany, and Poland; as well as a few different states throughout the USA. In addition to meeting host families who were eager to share their homes, favorite foods and culture with me, I also travelled with a group of students from over twenty countries world-wide; which made the experience even more exciting, educational and diverse. If you would like to know more about the program I studied abroad with, check out their website [www.upwithpeople.org](http://www.upwithpeople.org). It was the best time of my college career.

You may be starting to realize how quickly time passes while abroad. My advice is to take advantage of as many opportunities as possible. If there is an excursion to a nearby country or city that interests you; go and explore! If there is a student you would like to know more about, introduce yourself or go grab a coffee and ask about their experiences. Travelling and studying in another country is a rare experience that few are able to be a part of. Make the most of your time.

Enjoy your time abroad and best of luck with the rest of the semester!

*Michelle Wadleigh*

Graduate Intern - OIE

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

– Nelson Mandela

# STUDENT SUBMISSION

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## My Hungarian Adventure By: Laura Fleury

One of the best things about studying in Metz, France is that you can hop on a train and go just about anywhere, and the fact that we never have class on Fridays means we spend each weekend looking for new adventures. Throw in some night trains and you can get pretty far pretty easily.

This past weekend a few friends and I went to Budapest and Vienna. We planned our route (going that far you need to take a few trains there and back), booked our hostels, and got ready to go. We planned to get to Budapest early Friday, stay for a day and a half in Budapest, and a day and a half in Vienna before leaving for Metz late afternoon Sunday. So after classes got out on Thursday we walked downtown to catch our first train.

Our train adventures are never boring, and on the way to Budapest we almost lost a group member in Munich because he got off the train too early. We also got to spend a few hours in Komárom, Hungary while they cleared the snow off the tracks ahead of us. Then, while sitting in Komárom, we realized that our hostel reservations were for the wrong weekend in both Budapest and Vienna. So after 24 hours of travel (6 more than planned) we started walking towards our hostel to see if there was room for us to stay the night.

Walking through downtown Budapest, we noticed that there was no one on the streets. It was a Friday afternoon and everything was closed. Wondering what the heck was going on, we arrived at our hostel and discovered that we had arrived on Freedom Day, the Hungarian version of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. In addition to that, there was no free space at the hostel. Here we were, 6 hours late, only planning on staying for another 18 hours, no place to stay, and nothing to do, thinking that this trip was going to be a flop.

“Well there is an apartment you can rent, it isn’t in this area of town but it is near Parliament.” This was where our fortunes turned. For the four of us to stay in the hostel it was going to cost 40 euro a night, the apartment was 50 euro a night. Also, by “near Parliament” he meant right next door, as in you could see parliament from our window. Type Budapest, Hungary into Google images, the first few images should be of Parliament, it is a gorgeous building.



After some discussion we amended our plans to spend two nights in Budapest, take an early Sunday train to Vienna to spend 5 hours there before heading back to Metz. Best decision of the trip. That night we wandered around, and ended up going to a string concert in St. Stephen’s Basilica. The building and the concert were beautiful. After that we went to an amazing Hungarian restaurant where we spent about 4,500 forints apiece on our meal. Never thought I would be able to use that large a number on food, but it helps that 4,500 forints is about 15 euro. The rest of the night involved finding more beautiful buildings around the city, as well as an area where older somewhat rundown buildings were turned into clubs that were very strange. Interesting, but I could not properly describe them.

The next morning we woke up early to walk to Szechenyi Baths (second most popular image of Budapest). 200 years old and built over natural hot springs, it is full of indoor and outdoor pools, saunas, and steam rooms, as well as the opportunity for massages and the like. After weeks of traveling it was the best way to spend the morning.

We decided to take the metro back to the apartment to change before lunch. However, Hungarian is hard to read and there was no map in the train so we missed our stop. Suddenly the train stops in the middle of the tunnel and the four of us are the only ones on the train. The conductor got out of the train walked by and simply said “Dis is normal” in a thick Hungarian accent. After a short laugh at our luck with Hungarian trains, it headed back towards the station and we managed to find our way back to the apartment.

We got a late lunch before heading across the river to check out the castle and the cathedral. From there we had a beautiful view of the city and of the sunset. After the sun went down we walked across town to get some hot chocolate; something they make special in Budapest. You can get different flavors - everything from plum, to mint, to cayenne. If you get the extra chocolaty version it has the consistency of a melted chocolate bar.

At this point it was late and we went back to the apartment since we were planning on catching a 6 am train back to Vienna. Sadly we only had 5 hours in the city, but we took full advantage and did a whirlwind tour of the city center. Vienna is a beautiful city and every corner we turned we saw more and more beautiful buildings. Even the “Spanish Horse School” could easily be on my list of most beautiful buildings.

While in the city we did find the time to visit a butterfly garden, not a typical tourist attraction, but I would recommend it. We also managed to get lost in the old city area while searching for food. After a classic Viennese meal we were forced to make our way back to the train station to begin our train hopping adventure home. Four trains and 16 hours later we arrived in Metz just in time to go to our Monday morning class.

Even though the trip started off a little shaky, it easily became one of my favorite weekends, at least until next week.

*“Travel, in the younger sort, is a part of education, in the elder is a part of experience” – Francis Bacon*

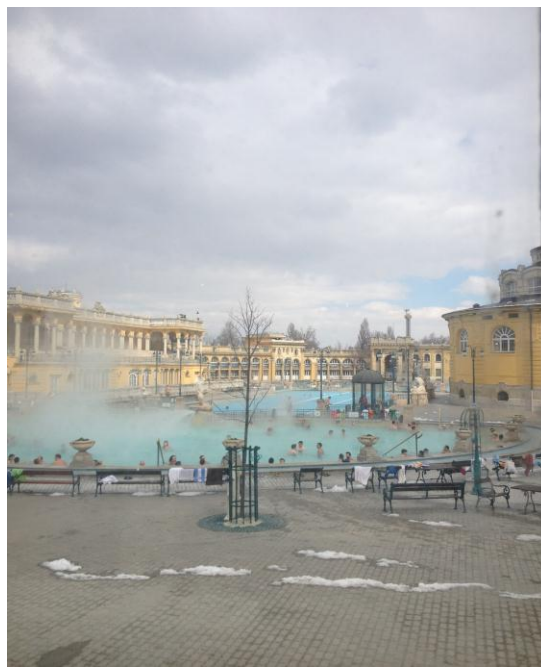
# PHOTOS FROM ABROAD!



Elizabeth Davis, Grenoble



Hannah Dellabella, London



Laura Fluery,  
Budapest



Hannah Dellabella, London



Taylor Hersh, Santa Cruz Island



Taylor Hersh, Santa Cruz Island

*“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*

# STUDENT SUBMISSION

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## The First Three Weeks By: Elizabeth Davis

It's been a while since I've posted anything serious, and I apologize for that. It's not that nothing interesting has happened; on the contrary, it's been a whirlwind of emotions for me. The thing is, writing these posts are cathartic for me, and I didn't feel ready for that release. After today, I think I'm at a pretty good resting point, so here we go.

Last Friday I went to see "Life of Pi," or "L'Odysée de Pi." It was my first French film without subtitles. I got about 70% of the words themselves, but the fact that *Life of Pi* is one of my favorite books in the whole wide world helped a lot. The movie itself was fantastic, but what I enjoyed the most were the moments where I'd get entire phrases and paragraphs that I didn't have to mentally process as text. I'm no longer using English as an intermediate crutch, but if I'm not entirely sure how to say something, I'll drop to a level where I mentally write the words and see them in my head as I say them. Those moments of clarity, of fluency, are like running with a kite and feeling the pull as it takes to the air.

The next day, I met up with Lindsay, the other CMU student I know who is in Grenoble this semester. We were in French Culture together, and she's also in a sorority, but we didn't really get to hang out until we both found out we were going to be in the same city. We walked around at an open-air market for a while before getting lunch at a café that has really good chocolat chaud. I ordered a croque monsieur, which is a classic comfort food in France - grilled ham and cheese with béchamel sauce. I was surprised to see that it was €7, but food in France is expensive, and this one was definitely worth the price.

Lindsay went home to have dinner with her host family, and I went out with my roommate to a party. I spent the whole time talking to a Parisian guy named Valentin - he's in Grenoble doing a PhD in systems biology. He tried teaching me some partner dance steps, but I only got the basics. I had a great time trying, though. He also introduced me to some of his friends, who were amazed that I could understand them after being in France only two weeks. Apparently that means I'll be bilingual way before I leave.

I attended my first hockey game ever - the Grenoble Brûleurs de Loups (Wolf Burners) versus the Strasbourg Etoile Noire (Black Star). The crowd was going wild with drums and megaphones. I got a hot dog while I was there, which was interesting in and of itself. Instead of a bun and yellow mustard, you got a mini-baguette and dijon. Even cheap food is classy here.

I got to hang out with Valentin over the weekend. We walked to the top of the Grenoble Bastille. It was an exhausting hike but totally worth it. The great thing about having local friends is that they can explain the history of the area to you. I took some pictures of the incredible view of the city.

I guess the main thing is that, even knowing that I'm a visitor, an exchange student, impermanent by definition, I feel nicely settled in here. My friend Sri asked me to sum up my experience here in one word. I had two answers for him. The one-word answer was "international," and the two-word answer was "eye-opening." It's not going to be hard to call this place home for the next four months. I can survive and get around without that much effort. What makes this place so exciting is the day-to-day, getting to know the customs and habits around here. Back home, I do the things I do without thinking about them. Here, I'm aware of every gesture, every interaction. I'm conscious of who I make eye contact with, I know to expect kisses on the cheek rather than hugs as a greeting, and I know how to address another person based on how close I feel to him or her. There is so much more to learn, but I'm not worried anymore about getting through - I've got this.



The view of the mountains from Grenoble.

# FUN FACTS!

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Please join the Office of International Education for the Welcome Back Reception on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 4:30pm!

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](http://www.nafsa.org/Explore_International_Education)



Christy St. John  
Currently Studying in Scotland



It is still snowing in Pittsburgh! This was taken by Morewood on March 27<sup>th</sup>!

*“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 occurs April 22-26 for the Fall 2013 semester.

For more info visit:  
<http://www.cmu.edu/hub/registration/undergraduate/s/index.html>

## Want to live on-campus Fall 2013?

Room Selection is now being completed online!

The deadline for open selection room assignments is April 11<sup>th</sup>.

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](mailto:plaid@andrew.cmu.edu)



**Carnegie Mellon University**  
Housing and Dining



*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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