

Study Abroad Connections

Dublin, Ireland - Summer 2024

JOHNNIE FOX'S EST 1798



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Director's Message

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a restful summer break! In this issue, we want to feature two study abroad alumni, one from a student and the other from a faculty member. Each talk about their experiences while abroad and how it has positively impacted their lives. Our student spotlight comes from Maria Sangga, a senior majoring in business who studied abroad at our newest semester program in Sydney, Australia, writes about how she has built international connections and adapted to living abroad. Jonna Eagle, instructor of American Studies, details going beyond the classroom and building international relationships. I hope that these study abroad stories inspire you as they have inspired us.

With Aloha,
Sarita Rai
Director

Student Spotlight: Maria Sangga

Former Study Abroad student Maria Sangga studied abroad to Sydney, Australia during the Spring 2024 semester and shares about her experiences while abroad.

My name is Maria Sangga and I am currently a senior here at UH, double majoring in Finance & Human Resource Management. The semester that I will be graduating is in Spring 2025. I was given the opportunity to be able to study abroad in Sydney, Australia at the University of Sydney during Spring 2024.

As someone who grew up in a closed environment, being able to Study Abroad is one of the best times in my life as a college student. It was definitely a change for both myself and my family to be away for a full semester. As a matter of fact, this is my first time living by myself in a foreign country, it has definitely made me get out of my comfort zone and grew my individual mindset. Being abroad has given me the opportunity to expand my international knowledge and create unforgettable memories. With my time here, I've also learned new parts of myself as an individual that I wouldn't have figured out.

I've recently learned that I now like to cook, which is something that I don't do back in Hawaii. It has occurred to me that being here by myself has forced me to learn real life skills such as being able to use the transportation system. Sydney does have multiple transports that are used, such as the train, light rail, and the ferry, all of which I've never used before. In a way, it's incredibly refreshing to be able to do things on my own for a change. I absolutely love Sydney and the country that I am in because of the good experiences I've had with the people being really friendly. One of the best things while being abroad is being able to meet new people and create friendships. I've had so many memories with the friends I've made and simply knowing that I have friends to be able to visit in different countries is exciting to think about.



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One of the most challenging things I've faced while being abroad was adapting to the education system in USYD. College is so much more different here compared to Hawaii. I've been experiencing the difficulties of group assignments and individual work. Being able to adapt to a new environment with such advanced education has personally changed my critical thinking. I knew from the start of my freshman year that I wanted to study abroad. I was debating at the time whether or not I should go with the Study Abroad Center as my abroad program. I was concerned about certain things such as living arrangements and the complications of credits being able to transfer. To my satisfaction, the Study Abroad Center has made my experience and the application process straightforward and simple. The Study Abroad Center also makes sure that you have a good group of students and a Resident Director who will be with you for that full semester. I do have to say that being able to meet students from UH, who will be abroad with you, makes the new environment comfortable. Through my experience, the Study Abroad Center definitely makes sure that you are well taken care of and having an enjoyable time while being abroad. I believe that UHM Study Abroad Center is one of the best Study Abroad programs to get involved in. The staff in the Study Abroad Center are some of the most friendliest people I've ever met and if there were any issues at all, they made sure to help students resolve those issues.

Plans after my study abroad experience is to continue my education in Shidler. I want to be able to get involved as much as possible with my last year in college. I did get the opportunity to run for an executive board position for the International Business Organization with the result of being the new Director of Marketing. I plan to share my experiences and help inspire others to Study Abroad. I do think that this experience was amazing and one that I will forever be grateful for.



Resident Director Spotlight: Jonna Eagle

Jonna Eagle, Spring 2024 Resident Director for London, England, shares about her experiences while abroad

Living and working abroad has been a marvelous adventure for me and the fourteen students participating in the UHM SAC's Spring 2024 London program—one for which we all are grateful. London is a wonderful city to live in and explore, rich with history, full of green space, a wealth of museums (many of them free), and diverse and lively neighborhoods, from South London to the West End, Notting Hill to Primrose Hill, Camden Town to the City, to the East End, the Docklands, Greenwich, and beyond. During our semester in London, we've experienced the short, biting days of January stretch out into the long, greening days of spring, watched the bright yellow fields of daffodils in February and March explode into the blooming trees and blossoms of April, and are enjoying the warming temperatures of May, as we wrap up our full and busy semesters.

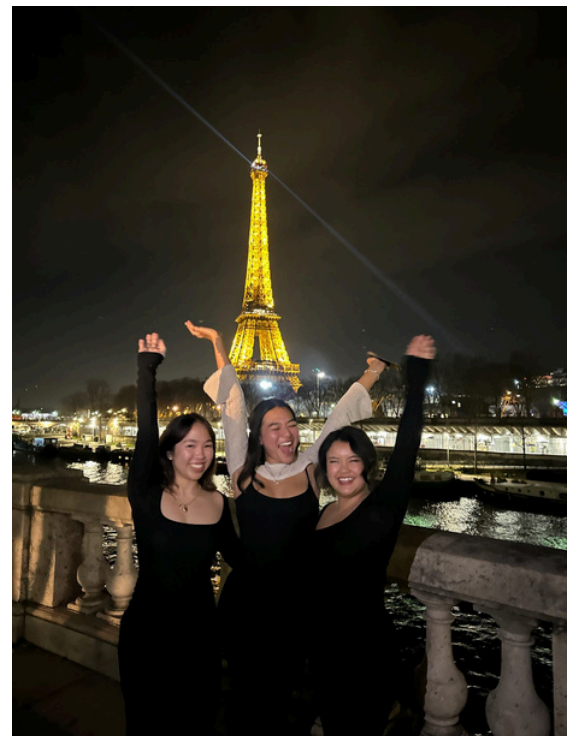
As a group, the Spring 2024 London cohort has come together to form a close and supportive community, while forging friendships with local students and students from elsewhere in the U.S. and around the globe. Alongside their studies and their London-based adventures, students have traveled widely, both around England and elsewhere in the UK—to Bath, Brighton, York, Scotland, and Wales—and further afield to Paris, Amsterdam, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Norway, Germany, Italy, Greece, and Croatia, among other destinations. Our UHM classes have augmented these experiences. In AMST 340: War and Media, we've surveyed British and U.S. media across a range of historical and contemporary conflicts, considering the complex ethical issues that surround the production and consumption of images of war. In AMST 490: Cinema and the City, we've studied the diverse history of London and its neighborhoods, while analyzing the way film shapes both the imagination of London and of British national identity more broadly. In both of these classes, students have worked hard and come away with new insights and ideas, honing their critical thinking and writing skills while enriching their understanding of mass media and its functions. Field trips have included outings to the Imperial War Museum and the Museum of London Docklands.



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The work of a Resident Director goes beyond the classroom, to include social outings, field trips, and group dinners, alongside supporting students in the face of whatever challenges or complications may arise as they negotiate life in an unfamiliar country and on an unfamiliar campus. I've been invigorated by my close work with the students, both inside and outside the classroom, and we hope to reconvene for a reunion in December (we toyed with a 20-year time capsule planted in the backyard of my residence here but—despite the compelling fantasy of return—an Oahu reunion seemed the safer bet). My work has also been invigorated through resources in London and on the continent, including the exhibitions and archives of the Imperial War Museum, and the one-of-a-kind War Photo Limited collection in Dubrovnik, Croatia, to which I was able to travel over spring break. As faculty, the position of Resident Director is an invaluable one, which provides an opportunity to step out of our own comfort zones, to explore the resonance of our research and teaching in new cultural and national contexts, and to access places and materials inaccessible to us at home. Like the students, I will miss London terribly, but we will none of us forget the opportunities we've had and shared during our semester abroad!



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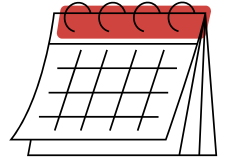
Fax
(808)-956-9319

Website
studyabroad.hawaii.edu



@UHMSTUDYABROAD

Fall 2024 Calendar



FOR STUDENTS

FRI, Sep 6: Spring 2025 Kobe, Japan AND Machida, Japan Application Due

FRI, Sep 13: Study Abroad Fair – Campus Center
MON, Sep 10: Study Abroad Fair – Virtual

MON, Sep 16 – FRI, Oct 4: Informational Meetings

FRI, Sept. 6: Spring 2025 Japan Application Due
TUE, OCT 15: Spring 2025 Application Due

[Please check SAC Website for updates regarding the fair and informational meetings]

FOR RESIDENT DIRECTORS

THU, Oct 3: Summer 2025 RD Application Due

MON, Nov 4: Fall 2025/Spring 2026 RD Application Due

COMING SOON!!
30TH ANNUAL
STUDY ABROAD FAIR

Come learn about your study abroad options!
We will have past participants come in and share their study abroad experiences!

Friday, September 13th
9am-2pm
Campus Center Courtyard

@UHMSTUDYABROAD

Donate Today!

Study Abroad Scholarship Fund

Your donation will contribute toward funding students on their Study Abroad journey!
Mahalo nui!

[Click Here!](#)

Spring 2025 Resident Directors

LONDON, ENGLAND

Reed Dasenbrock (rdasenbr@hawaii.edu)

English

1. ENG 369: The Novel: London in Fiction and Drama
2. ENG 445: William Shakespeare



FLORENCE, ITALY

Robert Littman (littman@hawaii.edu)

Religions & Ancient Civilizations

1. CLAS 300: Ancient Myth, Religion and Society
2. CLAS 121: Ancient Egyptian Civilization: Mummies, Pyramids & Pharaohs

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Krisna Suryanata (krisnawa@hawaii.edu)

Geography and Environment

1. GEO/SUST 322 (W): Globalization and Environment
2. GEO 422/SUST 423 (W): Agriculture, Food and Society



SEVILLE, SPAIN

Paul Chandler (cpaul@hawaii.edu)

LLEA - Spanish

1. LAIS 360C: Studies in Culture: Spain and Portugal
2. SPAN 330: Spanish Phonetics and Pronunciation

KŌBE, JAPAN

Atsushi Hasegawa (atsushih@hawaii.edu)

East Asian Languages and Literatures

1. JPN 493: Project Work in Japanese
2. JPN 330: Linguistic Analysis of Manga and Anime

