

## Get involved while on location:

- ❖ volunteer at a museum or cultural center
- ❖ volunteer for an after-school/pre-school program
- ❖ participate with a religious school/center/organization
- ❖ volunteer with a senior center
- ❖ find an internship (many companies have locations abroad where you can intern)
- ❖ join a local club or organization (running club, soccer club, cooking club, yoga, etc)
- ❖ engage in a homestay, even if only for a weekend
- ❖ find a local family with children to babysit or tutor
- ❖ volunteer at a local animal shelter
- ❖ work with your program/resident director to find other opportunities!

## Key Skills Developed During Study Abroad

- Ability to clearly articulate the relevance of your study abroad experience to your academic pursuits and personal growth
- Cultural participation and immersion
- Cross-cultural communication
- Flexibility
- Independence and self-reliance
- Judgment and decision-making
- Financial management
- Problem solving
- Resilience and confidence
- Language (depending on program/host country)



## Market Your Study Abroad Experience to Employers

### RESUME:

Place your study abroad experience in the Education section. If you participated in a volunteer or Global Engagement opportunity, you may also place it in the Experience section.

### INTERVIEWS:

Think of sample stories from your study abroad experience to use during behavioral interviews, where the questions typically begin with, “Tell me about a time when you...” and then challenge you to come up with clear examples of the following: worked in a diverse environment, demonstrated strong teamwork skills, persuaded someone to follow your idea, made and fixed a mistake and worked under pressure, etc. The best answers use the STAR technique:

Situation—*What was it?*

Task—*What were you required to do?*

Action—*What did you do?*

Result—*What was the end result?*

Tell your story clearly and effectively; practice telling it ahead of time during a mock interview.

### NETWORKING:

Connect with peers who participated in the same study abroad program (at the same time as you as well as during different years). Use your shared experience as a starting point to get to know each other.

## Reflections about the experience:

Michelle Obama: . . .It is so important for more of our young people to live and study in each other's countries. That's how, student by student, we develop that habit of cooperation, by immersing yourself in someone else's culture, by sharing your stories and letting them share theirs, by taking the time to get past the stereotypes and misperceptions that too often divide us.

Ronald Reagan: There is a flickering spark in us all which, if struck at just the right age...can light the rest of our lives, elevating our ideals, deepening our tolerance, and sharpening our appetite for knowledge about the rest of the world. Educational and cultural exchanges...provide a perfect opportunity for this precious spark to grow, making us more sensitive and wiser international citizens through our careers.

Tu-Anh Ha (COMM major; studied abroad in Nicaragua): By putting myself outside of my comfort zone there would be a lot to gain personally--as much as there was to give professionally.

Katerina Klavon (THET major; studied abroad in Italy): All in all, my time abroad helped me to learn how to unplug. I watched TV less, I talked to friends and family more, and I spent time walking around and interacting with my neighbors.

Dan Gerber: (COMM major; studied abroad in Chile): Spending time in a country where the culture, in my opinion, differs so significantly from our own has helped open my eyes to the world around us and not just directly in front of us.

Michael DiBiagio: (ENGL major; studied abroad in Italy): Living and traveling Europe has taught me so much about the world and about myself. It has made me push boundaries I never thought possible and learn to cope with differences I would not have thought I could bear...

Tim Wickless (HIST major; studied abroad in China): Looking back, I would do everything over again in a heartbeat, including every mistake I made when speaking Chinese or ordering food at a restaurant... I am more convinced than ever that new perspectives and different experiences shape us into better human beings.



### Contact Info:

ARHU Office of Student Affairs

1120 Francis Scott Key Hall

301.405.2108/2110

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University Career Center @ ARHU

Kate Juhl, Program Director

1118 Francis Scott Key Hall

kjuhl@umd.edu

301.314.4040

## MAKING YOUR MEMORIES MATTER

Because "It was awesome"  
won't get you a job!



An ARHU Resource Guide  
for Students Studying Abroad



COLLEGE OF  
ARTS & HUMANITIES