

Study Abroad Newsletter

Summer 2017 Issue



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Message from the Director's Perch

While our students and faculty were preparing to travel abroad in record numbers this summer, my recent travels took me to Los Angeles where I attended the annual NAFSA International Education Conference. The NAFSA conference brought together thousands of professionals who share a commitment to creating international opportunities for our universities. My colleagues and I were given pins to express our support of international students and other visa holders who enhance our lives with their minds, spirits, and cultures. We professed to double down on our efforts to build bridges not walls between people and places. I myself met with colleagues from current partners in South Korea, France, Ireland, and Canada to discuss creative ways to collaborate on academic programs. I also struck up new conversations with potential partners in Panama and New Zealand. We all left NAFSA enriched by these conversations and delighted with the prospects that lie ahead in our future.

Accordingly, the view from my Perch is exciting!

However, the view from my Perch, unfortunately, is also complicated.

While at NAFSA we were all following the news out of England, worried about the safety of our groups abroad. Events in Manchester, London, and beyond brought me back to the one new country I did visit so far this year, and I think it was a well-timed first visit.

I joined 14 Geography students and their professor for a few days in Northern Ireland during Spring Break. In Belfast we took a Black Cab tour to learn about the Troubles, the often violent religious and political conflict that divided the country for many decades, and still simmers just beneath the surface today. The tour brought us to the Peace Wall, which was built to separate the Protestant and Catholic communities in their time of conflict.

The Peace Wall is a dramatic reminder of what happens when people live divided rather than united. In this time of complications and divisions, intercultural dialogue and international mobility must go on.

I'm inspired by Rachel's story in this Newsletter. Her experience in Taiwan, and the friendships she made along the way, is exactly what we strive for on study abroad. If only more students could have an experience like hers...

Towards that goal, Brittney Crossley and I are counting on Rachel and her LU peers to help continue to spread knowledge on campus about the benefits of study abroad through the new Global Ambassadors program. Who better to talk about study abroad than the very students who've experienced it themselves? Please read on for more information about our new initiative. We look forward to seeing you this fall!

Dr. Jeff Palis

Director of Global Studies and Study Abroad

Top 5 Things to do in Guatemala

By Sloan Jenkins

1. Antigua
2. Lake Atitlan
3. The local markets are a must!!
4. Hike a volcano
5. You have to try the many different kinds of local tamales!

New Zealand

Fall 2017 courses with travel in December



About the Program

Students will go on a helicopter ride to gain a bird's-eye view of a glacier, hike across the volcanic landscape of Tongariro National Park, kayak with fur seals, and enjoy a traditional Maori meal while watching a Maori performance. You'll relax in a thermal mud bath, watch a geyser erupt, walk through a glow worm cave, and tour the real Middle-Earth when we visit the Hobbiton Movie Set which was created for the Lord of the Rings and Hobbit movies.

Courses

Students will take one or both courses during the Fall 2017 semester then travel as a group to New Zealand from December 10th – 22nd, 2017.

GEOL 1403 – Physical Geology I

GEOL 4301 – Geography of the South Pacific

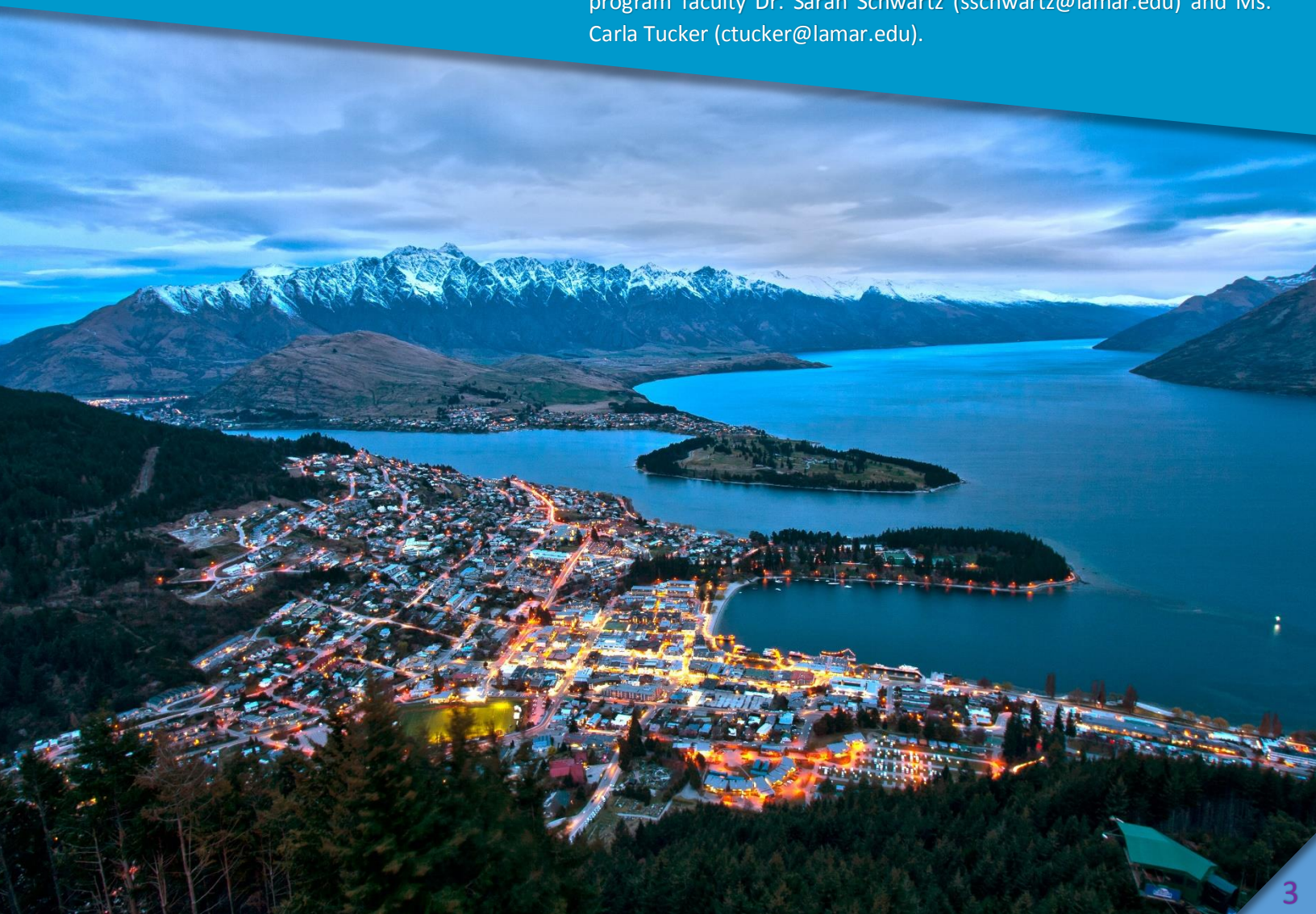
Costs

Program Fee: \$1,750 + Airfare + Tuition & Fees

Includes: Accommodations, breakfasts, excursions, entry fees, and international health insurance.

Date	Activity
December 10 - 11	Fly from Houston to Auckland
December 12	Tour of Hobbiton Movie Set
December 13	Wai-O-Tapu Geothermal Area, Hell's Gate – Thermal Walk, Mud Bath, Spa, & Tamaki Maori Village
December 14	Tongariro Alpine Crossing and Hike
December 15	Wellington
December 16	Tour of Wellington
December 17	Ferry to Kaikoura across Cook Strait
December 18	Kayaking (seals, dolphins, penguins)
December 19	Franz Josef
December 20	Helicopter ride to glacier, glacier hike, & glow worm caves
December 21	Christchurch
December 22	Fly from Christchurch to Houston

For more information contact the Office of Study Abroad or e-mail the program faculty Dr. Sarah Schwartz (sschwartz@lamar.edu) and Ms. Carla Tucker (ctucker@lamar.edu).





FALL 2017

CARDINALS BEYOND BORDERS

Are you interested in making new friends? Join the Cardinals Beyond Borders program! During the Spring 2017 semester we had almost 60 students from 9 different countries participate. Students have the opportunity to make new friends from different cultures while participating in activities and events hosted by the Office of Study Abroad. All participants are matched up with a buddy or buddies whom they will get to know throughout the program along with all the other participants.

Program Dates: September 13 - November 4, 2017

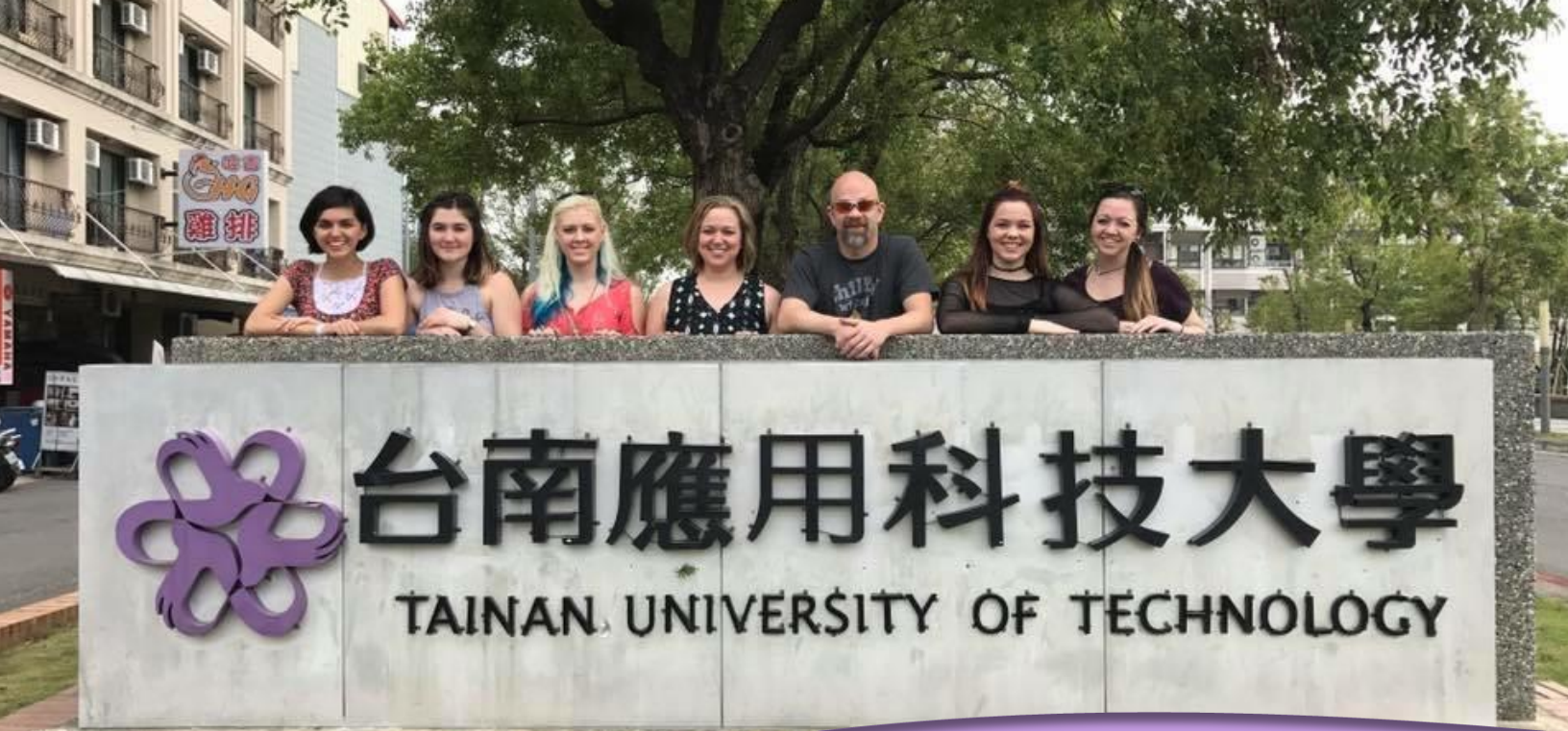
Program Cost: \$10

Covers all food, activities, and transportation to off campus events

Application Deadline: Friday, Aug. 25, 2017

How to Apply: Email bcrossley@lamar.edu for an application





Study Abroad Changed My Life (Plan)!

By Rachel Curtis

I went into my study abroad program thinking it would be a vacation. You know, the sort of trip where I would see all the sights, make some new local friends, try a couple new foods, and take great pictures of all my friends for Instagram. While all of that did happen, this trip changed my life in the way a “vacation” never could.

My study abroad group was led by the LU Department of Theatre and Dance. As only a Dance minor I was not sure what the trip would hold for me beyond packing my resume and affording me a one-of-a-kind cultural experience. Could a study abroad out of my major really help me prepare for the future? Yes it can!

My trip to Taiwan inspired me to learn Mandarin Chinese, a language spoken by more than 1 billion people. Having another language in your pocket looks good on a resume beyond just having the language as a resource. I was also inspired by the wonderful friends I made to visit Taiwan again in the summer and teach English. Teaching English is a wonderful summer job available in many countries across the world allowing you to reconnect with foreign friends and really learn about a country. As a Communications major my plan was always to go into public relations and work with social media for big company. Now my plan is to return to Taiwan after I graduate and find a job there where I can use being a native English speaker to my advantage. My study abroad trip has completely expanded my horizons and set my goals higher than they ever were before.



In 2016, around 20 students from Tainan University of Technology in Taiwan visited LU to take part in a series of dance classes and performances with LU students. Here they are after a fan dance class.

Probably the highlight for me overall was meeting the wonderful fellow dancers who we worked with in our performances. Learning and working so closely with the Taiwanese students created such a close bond – they have become some of my best friends. The local students showed us such incredible cultural moments and I am going to treasure all the adventures we had together. We visited beaches, museums, night markets, the zoo, and multiple malls and each time had a few of our local friends to guide us. The little bits of their language they could teach us before we left are still phrases my group continues to use back home in the U.S. Likewise, I know they are still using the phrases we taught them of English, like “that’s dope” and “check it out.” The language exchange created such a great memory. I still smile when I think about how we taught our friends to say “hi, I’m from Texas” with a southern accent!



LU and TUT students prepare for a dance performance together in Taiwan during spring break 2017.

The sheer beauty of Taiwan astounded me too. What an amazing place! Being on an island made everything feel so much more awe-inspiring. We travelled to the southern tip of the island and visited a white sand beach with crystal clear blue water. The bus ride back to Tainan, where we spent most of time, showed the incredible mountains of the island and beautiful rolling fields of rice paddies. Being in the vibrant big cities Tainan and Taipei gave us a fascinating contrast to the simple countryside. Overall it was undoubtedly the most beautiful – and interesting - place I had ever visited and I cannot wait to return.

When we weren’t sightseeing, rehearsing, or performing, we also visited so many shops our friends started to think our favorite activity was shopping, but the souvenirs we bought are going to be such sweet memories to hold onto. These souvenirs, along with the new friends I have made, will stay close to my heart for a long, long time. Taiwan has changed my life and my life plan!





GLOBAL AMBASSADORS

Join the Office of Study Abroad in a brand new program that will give study abroad alumni the opportunity to share their amazing experiences with other LU students around campus! Contact the OSA to apply.

Responsibilities

- Answer questions from students interested in study abroad
- Participate in study abroad events such as pre-departure orientation, study abroad fairs, new student orientation, information sessions, & more
- Help welcome international exchange students
- Organize outreach efforts & promotional events
- Promote events via word-of-mouth, social media, and on campus marketing

Qualifications

- Enrolled full-time & in good standing
- Must have participated in an LU faculty-led or exchange program
- Ability to maintain a professional demeanor & positive attitude regarding international experiences while representing the OSA
- Reliability & accountability participating in at least 2 service hours per month
- Be able to attend scheduled training sessions & meetings, usually once a month

Upcoming Events!

Cardinals Beyond Borders

Want to make new friends from all over the world? Join the CBB program by getting an application from our website or contacting the Office of Study Abroad.

Application Deadline: Aug. 25th

New Zealand Fall 2017

Need a core level science course? Need an upper level GEOL credit or elective? Take the course during the Fall 2017 semester and travel to the land of kiwis in December 2017.

Application Deadline: August

Global Ambassadors

Join this amazing new program as a way to take advantage of your amazing experiences abroad and share them across campus. Contact the Office of Study Abroad for an application or more information.

Application Deadline: Aug. 25th

Photo & Video Contest

Submit up to 5 photos and a video as entries into our 2017 contests. Entries must be from a 2016-2017 study abroad program.

Deadline: Sept. 1st

Welcome Back Reception

2016-2017 study abroad students are welcome to attend and share their amazing experiences.

September 13th at 4 pm in the 6th Floor of the Library

Contact Us

Office of Study Abroad

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8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Monday – Friday

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GlobalLamar