ACES Study Abroad

Imagine... 

• Tracking leopards in South Africa.
• Collaborating with business executives in Germany.
• Enjoying “pub grub” in Dublin.
• Picking avocados in Brazil.
• Whale watching in the Pacific Ocean.

You can travel the world and reap experiences like these through the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences Study Abroad program. Our faculty lead more than 20 semester-long exchange programs and 15 study tours. Studying abroad is one of the few things in life that has a nearly 100 percent approval rating—find out why!

With 400+ programs in more than 60 countries, what are you waiting for?

Study abroad fits into your schedule.

Earn credit to fulfill requirements in your major, allowing you to graduate on time! Most students can easily go abroad for a full semester without affecting planned graduation dates. Multiple opportunities exist for shorter trips during the summer and even over winter break.

Study abroad is affordable.

Programs vary greatly in cost, letting you find ones that will fit your budget. In addition, ACES offers numerous scholarships and gives away nearly $60,000 a year for studying abroad, sometimes making it even less expensive than studying on campus!

Study abroad helps students see life from a new perspective.

Learn to appreciate things at home that you may have taken for granted. Develop a greater sensitivity to and interest in international matters. Study abroad is a time of growth and challenge that takes place in a new and exciting environment.

Study abroad gives students an edge in the job market.

You can impress prospective employers by gaining a global outlook and diverse perspectives. You can even complement your major with international courses through the ACES International Studies minor. Study abroad increases your understanding of other cultures, equipping you to work better with people from all over the world while you develop problem-solving skills and become more flexible. Study abroad enables you to exert your independence and gain self-confidence.

Amy Bredehoft, a student in food science and human nutrition, learned about coffee production in Guatemala as part of the International Horticulture Crops study tour to Guatemala and Costa Rica over winter break.

accdemics.aces.illinois.edu/study_abroad
George Witchek

Growing up with Chicago’s O’Hare airport in his backyard, George Witchek of Bensenville had little appreciation for agriculture or food development. Now four years later, his perspective has changed because of the College of ACES and an internship in China that changed his life and ultimately helped him land a job with a multinational food company.

A scholarship offered by the College of ACES helped Witchek study abroad to see how factories in China operate. He worked with clients in New Zealand, Australia, Western Europe, and even the United States to discuss the manufacturing of industrial products for export.

His study abroad experience transformed his perspective on how the world’s people live.

“I learned from that experience how great we have it,” Witchek said. “I’m fascinated with the prospect of feeding others around the globe.”

Katie King

Growing up on a farm in New Berlin, Illinois, Katie King knew a lot about agriculture. But she also recognized that her knowledge of agriculture in other parts of the world was minimal. In order to be an effective agricultural educator, she embarked on the College of ACES Horticulture 199 study abroad trip to Costa Rica and Guatemala.

“This trip opened my eyes to different cultures and how things operate in Central America,” King said. “Almost everything is done by hand—there is so much more manual labor in their daily lives. It made me realize how fortunate we are in the United States. I believe it’s very important to know where your food comes from and how it’s grown. I understood American agriculture, but now I know more about the other products I enjoy often, such as coffee, chocolate and pineapple.”

Arsema Weldu

Observing African wildlife in their natural habitat attracted Arsema Weldu, a senior in animal sciences from Harare, Zimbabwe, to the U of I study abroad trip to South Africa. Each year, three groups travel 8,500 miles to Pretoria to study wildlife science and exotic species at remote locations in the bush.

“Being in a new country and learning about the people’s views really helps develop one’s own opinion and broadens one’s mind,” she said. “It encourages the ability to tolerate, understand and acknowledge the importance of incorporating different ideas when trying to solve a problem—important experiences you can’t gain from the classroom.”

Eager to know more?

- Visit academics.aces.illinois.edu/study_abroad
- Call 217-333-3380
- Email Meredith Blumthal, ACES Director of Education Abroad Programs, at mblumtha@illinois.edu