

## Study abroad at American University, Washington, DC

Pritika Rajgopal, an AUS student majoring in marketing, studied abroad during Fall 2013 at American University in Washington, DC. Pritika said she had an exceptional time in Washington, a very liberal and politically charged city.

"You could instantly feel that the entire city is so politically active," she said. She had a great opportunity to attend the Martin Luther King Jr. Day speeches and see President Barack Obama and Oprah Winfrey live at the National Mall. She also enjoyed her first baseball game, the New York Mets vs. the DC Nationals.



Q: How did you decide to study abroad?

A: I came to the decision to study abroad because I always knew that I wanted a first-hand experience of what it's like to go to college in America. The entire experience was amazing. I'm glad that I did it and I think everyone should have that kind of experience because it is so incredibly different from the kind of experience we get here.

Q: Why do you think it's important to study abroad?

A: It gives you a full rounded college idea and helps you get adjusted to the way life is outside of the UAE. Being abroad and living alone as a student, you have to think about budgeting and taxes as well as how you're spending your time, along with

juggling school and other activities you're involved in. However, you do have a lot more independence and the well-rounded experience really changes your perspective on things."

## Study abroad updates

For Spring 2014, IXO has had 40 incoming students from many different places especially the United States, Argentina as well as Venezuela.

Currently, there are 11 students studying abroad from AUS this spring, mostly in the United States and Canada. We are also expecting as many as 50 incoming students to join us for the Summer 2014 term.

IXO hosted 11 visiting international guests this spring, mostly from the US, as well as Russia and Germany.

In addition, a record number of 24 students applied to attend the Summer Intensive Arabic Language Program 2014 this summer.

## Summer study tours

This summer, CAAD will have three credit-bearing study tours. They will happen in June and July: two in Milan, Italy and one in Cambodia. Forty-nine students are expected to attend these study tours.

## Recent IXO events

### Marketing study abroad experiences

In March, Ms. Linda McLoughlin, Placement Director at the School of Business Administration, held a workshop entitled, "How to Market Your Study Abroad Experience to Potential Employers."

She gave a wide variety of interview tips and information on what students should include in their CVs as well as how to write a cover letter. This workshop taught students how to talk about their study abroad experience while interviewing for jobs.

## An insider's guide to international organization

On April 14, an insightful presentation, jointly sponsored by IXO and the SBA Career Placement Office, was delivered by Dr. Annette Ittig, about how the United Nations works.

Dr. Ittig is a social scientist with extensive experience with programs such as the United Nations Development Programme and other agencies such as UNICEF, The World Bank, and the Canadian International Development Agency. The focus of her work deals with bilateral and multilateral human security as well as peacebuilding initiatives.

Dr. Ittig, who has been a post-doctoral fellow at the Canadian Government Department of Foreign Affairs Human Security fellow, has a PhD from the University of Oxford, England. Her publications, which include books and articles, focus on human security and the responsibility to protect, corporate social responsibility and the aid world as well as the material culture of the Middle East.



Dr. Ittig

In her presentation, Dr. Ittig gave a brief overview of the United Nations, including its specialized agencies and programs. She talked about innovative partnerships between the United Nations and the private sector, in terms of providing volunteer opportunities for interested students. She also identified the basic requirements needed for employment as well as essential language and soft skills. Lastly, she explained traditional career

pathways into the UN, which include internships and Junior Professional Officerships, as well as non-traditional entry points.

## IXO outings

IXO's most recent outing was an overnight desert safari on March 21-22. Our students enjoyed exhilarating activities such as dune bashing and sand boarding. They also had the opportunity to go camel riding, apply henna as well as view the beautiful Dubai desert sunset. To top it off, students got to experience the taste of delicious Arabic coffee, tea and sweets and live entertainment that included belly dancing and a Tanura dance show.

IXO had a number of other outings and events, including a BBQ trip to Al Ain, where our students enjoyed the wonderful hot springs, as well as a trip to Musandam, Oman to spend the day in the sun and enjoy water activities such as snorkelling.



Exchange students on the overnight desert safari



BBQ in Al Ain, with Mr. Abu Bakr Alani, Resident Director of the Council on International Educational Exchange



Dhows in Musandam, Oman

## International scholars

Throughout the month of April, IXO has seen many international visitors.

Our visiting scholar of interest this month is Sandra Doepking, a chemical engineering graduate student from the Technische Universitat Muchen (TUM) in Germany. Ms. Doepking is here to conduct a research project for her master's thesis, which is related to the field of catalysis or system engineering. She said she is very excited to have the opportunity to work here at AUS for six months, alongside Dr. Paul Nancarrow of the Department of Chemical Engineering.



Sandra Doepking

## International delegations

On April 20, IXO had a visiting delegation of 25 students from Tilburg University, Netherlands.

They were very excited to come to AUS and were amazed by the impressive architecture at AUS. IXO conducted a campus tour for the delegation, which included a tour of the library.

The students were able to meet the incoming exchange students, AUS students who studied abroad and friends of IXO.

They also attended the International Studies Student Association (INSA) conference, which focused on global migration and Middle Eastern political, cultural and social relations.



The visiting delegation from Tilburg University

## Hosting SES volunteers

This April, IXO has hosted two students from Sharjah English School (SES). Arran Sid and Saif Al Issa are Year 10 students who completed their work study experience with IXO. They worked on two projects, which were helping to create a *Peer Advisor Handbook* which will be used in the future to train new peer advisors, as well as a short film, *A Week in IXO*. This film will showcase a week's worth of IXO events, including interviews of peer advisors, incoming and outgoing students, and visiting scholars. We hope that they had a blast working at IXO.