

Farewell to our Summer 2013 students!

As the summer semester comes to a close, we must wish our Summer 2013 study abroad students farewell. We hope the summer has been as memorable to all our study abroad students as it has been for us.

The IXO faculty and summer students said their goodbyes at a final Iftar at the Asateer Tent in Atlantis.

The students will be missed sorely and the IXO wishes them all the best in their future endeavours.



Successful summer study tours

The IXO has helped organized five study tours abroad this summer - three to Italy, one to Malaysia and one to California.

The trips to Italy were organized for Design, Interior Design & Architecture students, where they took credit-bearing courses and toured the beautiful country. They became immersed into the culture, developed an understanding Italy's production process, and enhanced a variety of skills such as graphic design and urban architecture.

The IEEE Student Branch organized travel for Engineering students to Malaysia at the beginning of the summer. This study tour aimed to take AUS students to a technologically advanced country to tour sophisticated manufacturing facilities.

The trip to California was arranged in conjunction with the California Lutheran University, where theater students participated in the Kingsmen Shakespeare Festival. They gained professional experience by taking part in productions and performances of two Shakespeare plays.

Study abroad increases emotional stability

According to a recent study published by the Friedrich Schiller University in Germany, students who study abroad have a higher level of emotional development. A study was conducted among over 1000 students in 200 German universities, surveying students who were considering short and long term study abroad, as well as those who weren't. The survey was designed to measure the "big five" personality traits: openness, conscientiousness, extroversion, agreeableness and emotional stability. Students took the surveys at the beginning of the the study abroad, midway and after; those who didn't go abroad completed the survey at the same intervals.

The study found that study abroad students, even before they leave, are more open-minded, outgoing and conscientious than others. Once they leave, they experience benefits in terms of emotional stability, and international relationships prompt personality changes. Successful integrations into different cultures provides better coping skills so students can more easily adjust to new situations and challenges.

Through this study, it has been shown that packing up, leaving our home country and spending time abroad has substantial effects on who we are, and the difference is made by the people we meet and the relationships we form along the way.

Cappelletti, B. (July, 2013) Study: abroad has been shown to increase emotional and personal development. Retrieved from: www.alliance-exchange.org

Welcome incoming Fall 2013 students

At the same time that we are saying goodbye to our summer students, we are welcoming a new batch of 43 incoming study abroad students for the Fall 2013 semester.

Among these students, we are welcoming Natale from Argentina. Not only is Natale our first incoming South American study abroad student, but he is also our first blind study abroad student! We hope that the entire AUS community will assist us in welcoming Natale, and extend to him a helping hand whenever you observe he may need it (e.g. when crossing a street intersection here on campus).

Of course, do not forget to extend the same hospitality to all our incoming study abroad students and help make their experience here as joyable as possible!