IXO News

IXO Calendar

**March 3**
Deadline for Incoming Students to Apply to Study Abroad at AUS in Summer and/or Fall 2018

**March 17**
Deadline for Outgoing Visiting Students (i.e., Paying all Fees at Host University) to Submit Applications to Study Abroad in Fall 2018

**May 5**
Deadline for Outgoing Students to Apply to Study Abroad for Spring 2019

IXO Turns Eight!

IXO celebrated its eighth anniversary on January 2, 2018.

Since our founding of IXO in 2010, we have: welcomed over 700 students from hundreds of universities across 26 countries; sent more than 450 AUS students to study abroad at 76 host universities in 11 countries; and facilitated hundreds of students and faculty to attend study tours around the world.

IXO also has welcomed many hundreds of international visitors and scholars to AUS.

New IXO Students Arriving

Thirty-five incoming study abroad students from 27 home universities in Morocco, the Netherlands, the UK and the USA arrived and settled into their new lives here at AUS. They received an intensive orientation program, including various outings throughout Sharjah and Dubai.

We interviewed two of our incoming students to determine their initial thoughts upon arriving at AUS.

Dania Na studies at Maastricht University’s School of Business and Economics in the Netherlands. She has Syrian heritage, and is excited to live in such a multicultural Arab country.

Jordan McRae studies architecture at Howard University in Washington, DC. He found it easy to settle here, making new friends across AUS. He is very impressed by the fabrication equipment in the College of Architecture, Art and Design Labs.
Welcome New Team Members

We are delighted to welcome our new Peer Advisors for Spring 2018. Most recently returned from their own study abroad experiences, and are now anxious to encourage others to go abroad. Surely their energy and passion for international exchange will inspire more AUS students to have this experience of a lifetime!

Ahmed Elsawi, a chemical engineering major, studied abroad at the University of Texas at Austin, USA. He describes it as the best experience of his life. Living independently led to him know himself better. He travelled widely and made lasting new friendships all over the globe.

Jonathan Ramshaw, an international studies major, previously studied at Conestoga College in Canada. He loves the UAE and finds that working in IXO as a Peer Advisor enables him to regularly meet new people from around the world. He is planning future exchanges to Japan and possibly France.

Omar Al-Gafri, a mechanical engineering major, studied abroad at Purdue University in Fort Wayne, Indiana, USA. He feels that studying abroad was one of the smartest decisions he has made in his life. He met a lot of people from different cultures that later became close friends. He enjoyed it there and he wants to study abroad again.

Anna Terekhova, a management information studies major, studied at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. She told us that her experience was unforgettable. She especially enjoyed the beautiful campus and the caring community. In addition, the interesting classes she took made her semester abroad fun, fruitful and gratifying.

Vishnu Narayanan, a finance major, studied abroad at Maastricht University in the Netherlands. He said, "It's safe to say that studying abroad has been the most exciting, enriching and happening time of my life so far."

Sustainability Office Renovation

Peer advisor Shaza Khalil, along with her Interior Design Studio V (IDE 401) Team, designed and renovated the new office for AUS Sustainability. The team used completely recycled materials, in line with the nature of the office. The result was a user-friendly and welcoming office space that will surely enhance productivity.
New IXO Promotional Films

In Fall 2017, teams of students from Principles of Media Production and Performance (MCM 281) taught by Susan Smith, Associate Professor of Mass Communication, developed short, 5-minute videos promoting IXO’s incoming and outgoing study abroad program to potential participants.

Excellent videos resulted—several for the incoming program and one for the outgoing program. IXO will be posting these to its Facebook page and other...

It Takes a Village!

Every semester the IXO Team enjoys seeing Alumni Peer Advisors return to voluntarily assist with our Incoming Orientation.

This term we were joined by five recent graduates: Mohamed Abubaker, Mohamad Bassam, Mutaman Elyas, Tariq Alsayed and Orangica Ibrahim. Volunteers Rose Armour and Tia Bendaly also assisted. Truly, it takes a village to orient every new batch of arriving study abroad students!

Summer Opportunities

Summer Study Abroad

To see the many exciting study abroad opportunities that are offered in summer, AUS students are encouraged to stop by IXO and look through a booklet full of summer study abroad options. For more information about the process to apply for summer study abroad, look at our website: https://www.aus.edu/summer

For example, Susan Smith, Associate Professor of Mass Communication, is planning a 3 week study tour to Ladakh, India, this summer, worth 3 credits. This opportunity to participate in video and photography workshops and projects is available for current AUS students, and also a possibility for incoming summer study abroad students. If interested, students should email ixo@aus.edu for a brochure, or stop by the office.

Summer Program Scholarships

Exciting news for all students who want to study abroad in two of the top-ranked universities in the world!

Students can apply now for £14,500 in scholarship funding to study abroad for Summer 2018 at either:

1) The Exeter College (Oxford University) Summer Program or
2) The Sir Richard Dearlove International Security and Intelligence Program at Cambridge University.

More information can be found on the program websites:

http://exetersummerprogramme.com
http://thecsi.org.uk/isi/
Natale Antonel

Natale Antonel, an Argentinian exchange student who studied at AUS in Fall 2013, was so inspired by his time abroad here that he recently started his own company specializing in intercultural consulting and communication training. Moreover, he has been signed on to serve as the only Argentinean Representative for Embrace Arabia (www.embracearabia.com), certified to consult and train on Arab culture and the Gulf Region.

Natale Antonel

Match Made in IXO!

IXO enjoyed a recent visit from newlyweds Ahmed Jabr and Maroua El Maliani. Ahmed, a graduated IXO peer advisor, met Maroua while she was studying at AUS via ISEP Exchange from Leiden University in the Netherlands in Fall 2016. Ahmed studied abroad himself via ISEP Exchange, attending Utah State University in Spring 2015.

Truly a match made in IXO!!

Ahmed Khalid Jabr and Maroua ElMaliani

Visitors Hosted at AUS

Recent Visiting Delegates

January
Common Purpose, Exeter University, UK
University of Alberta, Canada
Washington & Jefferson College, USA
Peking University, China
Beijing Institute of Technology, China
University of Massachusetts in Amherst (UMASS Amherst), USA
Morgan State University, USA
Louisiana State University, USA

February
Deakin University, Australia
University of Waterloo, Canada
EuroAce (Internships), Spain
La Rochelle Business School, France

New Visiting Researchers

January
Engineering
Dr. Uraz Turker, Gebze Technical University, Turkey
Mohammad Abuzayyad, Fun Robotics, UAE

Business/Economics
Dr. Xueli Tang, Deakin University, Australia
Angela Gonzalez, University of Exeter, UK
Stephano Amato, University of Pisa, Italy

Arts/Sciences
Dr. Renu Bai, University of Nottingham, UK

February
Engineering
Dr. Nina Evtushenko, Institute for System Programming, Russia

IXO Alumni Updates

Natale Antonel

Ahmed Khalid Jabr and Maroua ElMaliani