

## Student Profile

### Study Abroad Semester at LSU

AUS architecture major Ali J. Al-Sammarraie studied abroad at Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge during the Fall 2014 semester. While at LSU, Ali won an architecture award, including a cash prize of \$500, and was even offered a job with an architecture firm!

In addition to his studies, Ali experienced the famous music and culture of Louisiana. "The most memorable places I went to were the New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA), Sculptures Park, Magazine Street, and of course the famous French Quarter and Bourbon Street."

experiences I've ever had. I got to meet so many great people and experienced a different yet similar culture. I was also shocked at how seemingly easy it was for someone to start up a conversation."



Ali (extreme right) at LSU

**Why do you think it's important to study abroad?** It is the greatest chance to discover one's capacity at achieving things, discover some of the personal qualities that would otherwise remain hidden and improve one's social skills. Studying abroad allows you to better adapt with people from different backgrounds and diverse cultures.

**How did you decide to study abroad?**

It started off as a far-fetched idea, as I was quite comfortable at AUS. After conversing with many people about it, and talking to my professors, I was encouraged to start a journey by myself. I was eager to understand the meaning of the phrase "be comfortable being uncomfortable," which was constantly said by my professors at AUS. I took this journey as a step forward to understand what living outside my comfort zone would be like.



Ali in New Orleans

"The culture and life in Baton Rouge and New Orleans were among the greatest

## Student Opportunities

### International Writing Program

AUS faculty members can now nominate students for the Between the Lines writing program at the University of Iowa.

The program is aimed at talented young writers who show strong potential to become literary figures.

Applicants should be between the ages of 16-19 and must be proficient in both Arabic and English.

All application material collected will be uploaded to the International Writing Program (IWP) website.

Students must be nominated by AUS staff and faculty members. The **deadline** to nominate a student is **March 1, 2015**.

If you would like to be nominated, please notify us at [ixo@aus.edu](mailto:ixo@aus.edu). For more information, visit:

<http://iwp.uiowa.edu/programs/between-the-lines>

<http://iwp.uiowa.edu/programs/between-the-lines/how-to-apply>

### Spring 2016 Application

Applications are now open for AUS students who want to study abroad in the Spring 2016 semester. The **deadline** for all applicants is **May 9, 2015**.

Visit the International Exchange Office (MG43) to talk to a Peer Advisor about your options. Contact us at [ixo@aus.edu](mailto:ixo@aus.edu) for more information.

### Summer Opportunities

Are you looking for a study program for this summer? Come down to IXO (MG43) to peruse our brochures and discuss various summer opportunities available such as Pembroke College, University of Cambridge, UK; University of Minnesota, USA; Utrecht University, Netherlands; and Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan, Italy.

### Platform Summer Programs

Platform Summer Programs offers a wide range of summer and other short-term programs such as service learning, language courses, teen activity programs and summer camps. For more information, visit [www.summer-programs.org](http://www.summer-programs.org)

### IXO Calendar

#### February 16

"Intercultural Communication with Arabs" Lecture by Dr. Rana Raddawi, Faculty Senate Room

#### February 23

Mixer with returning Fall 2014 students and incoming Spring 2015 students

#### March 1

Deadline for nominations for International Writing Program: Between the Lines

#### May 9

Spring 2016 Study Abroad Application Deadline



## IXO News

### AUS Study Tours to India

During the semester break, two groups of AUS students participated in study tours to India.

Through the student chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), 25 students went to New Delhi and Agra, February 2-10.

Ten students from the College of Architecture, Art and Design participated in the study tour Architecture and Design Highlights February 1-8. They visited New Delhi, Agra and Chandigarh.

### Spring 2015 Exchange Students

IXO had a successful orientation for the Spring 2015 semester with a total of 44 students studying abroad at AUS. Twelve of the students were continuing from the Fall 2014 semester and 32 were new incoming students from the US, Canada, UK, Germany and Morocco.



Spring 2015 exchange students and I XO team

### IXO Graduates

Congratulations to I XO Peer Advisors Sally Alhamad and Arun Vijayan, and Resident CIEE Director Abu Bakr Alani on their graduation from AUS!



Jasim Mafraji, Osama Mafraji, Abu Bakr Alani, Linda Angell, Sally Alhamad, Arun Vijayan, Grace Morales and Islam Al Qaisi (left to right)

Both Sally and Arun graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in Finance. Sally studied abroad at the University of Vermont, USA, and has worked at I XO for two years.

Arun studied abroad at the University of Iowa, USA, and has worked at I XO since Summer 2013.

Abu Bakr graduated with a Master of Arts in English/Arabic/English Translation and Interpreting. He has served as the Resident Director of CIEE since Fall 2013.

I XO wishes Sally, Arun and Abu Bakr the best of luck for their future endeavors.

## Visiting Delegations

In January, IXO hosted many visiting delegations from universities including Brandeis University, Massachusetts, USA; Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, Lebanon; University of Minnesota, Minnesota, USA; and University of Salento, Lecce, Italy.

### Pennsylvania State University

IXO hosted a visiting delegation from Pennsylvania State University, including:

- Dr. Nicholas Jones, Civil Structure Engineer, Executive Vice President and Provost
- Dr. Michael Adewumi, Associate Provost for Global Programs and Professor of Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering
- Dr. Amr Elnashai, Civil Structure Engineer and Harold and Inge Marcus Dean of Engineering
- Dr. Assaad Salama, former PhD student of Dean Elnashai and current Managing Director of Salama Structural Engineers, Dubai.

### DePauw University

IXO hosted a visiting delegation of nineteen students and two faculty members from DePauw University, Indiana, USA. They were excited to visit AUS and to explore the Middle Eastern culture here in the UAE.



IXO team and students from DePauw University, Indiana, USA

## Events

### Farewell Dinner

IXO held a farewell dinner for the Fall 2014 exchange students at Pars Iranian Restaurant, Dubai, to bid them adieu with an Iranian-styled mixed grill.



Fall 2014 exchange students at Pars Iranian Restaurant, Dubai

### Team Celebration at Al Bait Al Baghdadi

The IXO team recently enjoyed traditional Iraqi masgouf at Al Bait Al Baghdadi to celebrate a successful semester including the graduation of three IXO team members.



IXO team at Bait Al Baghdadi Restaurant, Sharjah