



# Study Abroad Newsletter

*-We promise you discovery: the discovery of yourselves, the discovery of the universe, and your place in it. -  
Sister Madeleva Wolff*



*Spain- photo by Katie Hennelly '18*



*Rome- photo by Kelly Vaughan '17*

## Reflections from Abroad

Though study abroad is transient, our travels are enduring. They are comprised of moments, memories, and milestones that stick with us throughout a lifetime because the wanderlust we encounter is unshakeable.

Some describe it as that first taste of freedom, while others call it an adventure. Some acknowledge the temporality, while others see the potential in living globally. It's your story to write. Therefore, we asked Belles near and far to record their moments, memories, and milestones to inspire others to reflect on their own or catch a glimpse of all the potential these programs hold.

Ireland- Year '15-16

*Written by Aubrey Clark '17*

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## IRELAND

*Written by Aubrey Clark '17,  
Ireland Academic Year '15-16*

When I decided to study abroad in Maynooth, Ireland, all I knew was that I wanted something that would radically change my perspective on life. I wanted to be a more informed, mature human-being. I had no idea what to expect. I was blown away by how far my expectations were surpassed and exceeded.

I arrived in the Dublin airport as a tired, overwhelmed, but excited girl. I was afraid to branch out and not be able to find my place in Maynooth. I was forced to set aside my concerns, join clubs, and reach out to meet new people. I had to become comfortable with being uncomfortable.

I was extremely blessed to

have found my new friends and hobbies quickly! I joined clubs like Ultimate Frisbee and Busking, and was amazed by the instant welcoming atmosphere and talent possessed by these groups. The kindness and guidance I was granted helped me grow more accustomed to the everyday life here. I've learned something new about Ireland and its culture each day.

The flexible and forgiving academic schedule and general laid back nature of Ireland have allowed me to explore, travel, and grow into myself as I was never previously given the opportunity to do. I have needed to be independent, open, and courageous in this brand new place, as well as the other countries I've gotten to see (Italy and England). It has all been for the best. I learned that sometimes things are just out of my control, and all I can do is adjust. I found that no matter where in the world one is, there will always be some sort of family waiting to help her through confusion, heartache, homesickness, and the general messiness that everyday life brings. Sometimes home is not a place. It might not even be a person. I think that it's a feeling – a feeling of being safe, loved, and appreciated even in times of doubt, discomfort, and struggle.

People told me time would fly when I came here, and that heading home would feel almost unnatural. I tried to prepare myself for that, but even going home for Christmas break felt strange. All I wanted to talk about was Ireland, my amazing new friends, and everything I've done and learned about myself. Not only is Ireland beautiful and rich with culture and art, but the air also just feels lighter. It's a breath of fresh air. My family and friends at home do not and will not necessarily understand my obsession with Ireland and what I've experienced here. I've decided that it's alright, though. These brand new stories are mine to cherish and learn from.

Ireland will be with me forever, as will the people I met here. I can't express enough how much I encourage all students to study abroad and take a chance on getting to know themselves in a new light. Those who do so will become stronger, wiser, braver, and more capable than ever before.



*“These brand new stories are mine to cherish and learn from.”*

# TRAVEL WRITING IN JAMAICA

New summer study abroad program!

Saint Mary's College has partnered with the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica to offer a three-week summer study program beginning in late May, 2016. Kingston is the capital, and largest city in Jamaica, located on the southeastern coast of the island. It faces a natural harbor protected by the Palisadoes, a long sand spit. Kingston is the largest and predominantly English-speaking city south of the United States



**Program of Study:** The Jamaica summer program offers a three credit course in Travel Writing (ENWR 223: *Travel Writing in Jamaica*), which will be taught on the UWI campus and during excursions on the island. This course satisfies Sophia LO1: Arts for Living (Creative and Performing Arts) and Sophia LO3: Intercultural Competence (A) requirements.

**Eligibility:** The Jamaica summer program is open to students in any major. Non-Saint Mary's College students may also apply. There is no GPA requirement, but students must be in good standing with the College to be accepted into the program. One faculty recommendation is required.

## Study Abroad Photo Contest Winners

*Photos submitted from students who studied abroad in the academic year '14-'15*



*Shanghai- photo by Anastasia Tylka '16*



*Ireland- photo by Jackie Rooney '17*



*Spain- photo by Kaitlyn Alessi '17*

# OXFORD, ENGLAND

*Mary Kate Luft '17 and Katie Kulwicki '17,  
Academic Year '15-16*



Studying abroad has been the most amazing experience so far. Going into it, we weren't quite sure what to expect. We had heard about how wonderful Oxford would be, but we still had some wariness about how difficult it would be to live away from our family and friends, adjust to a foreign city in a foreign country, and adapt to a more intense style of learning.

Luckily for us, we've adapted quite well and are even thriving in our new home. Although we didn't know each other before signing up to go to Oxford together, we've become inseparable friends. We've managed to mostly adapt to the workload. While we don't have classes everyday because we only meet with our tutors once a week, we're still spending a ton of time independently learning. The tutorial system is much more intense than our system in the United States, which we've found to be tough, but rewarding

During the winter break we traveled to Germany. We had an amazing time seeing castles and Christmas Markets and eating incredible German food - we miss käse spaetzle (like macaroni and cheese, but better) so much! Traveling can be exhausting. Because of bus and train connections, I once went to a soccer game in Liverpool, left by 8pm, and didn't get home to Oxford until 6am the next morning; it was the most extended journey ever considering that Liverpool is only about 3.5 hours away by car. The long and uncomfortable journeys though are worth it. We love having the opportunity to travel and experience different cultures and customs of England and so many other countries.

I think our favorite part of being abroad has been enjoying the culture of Oxford. Oxford is unique and definitely completely different from South Bend, IN, and that's why Kate and I love it. Of course we miss our families and friends and sometimes we get nostalgic for places back home, but we know we're going to be just as nostalgic for Oxford next year. We were already discussing grad school in Oxford mid-way through our first term here. We love studying abroad and we love Oxford. We never want to leave.

**“We love having the opportunity to travel and experience different cultures...”**

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CENTER FOR WOMEN'S  
INTERCULTURAL LEADERSHIP