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1) Upcoming Events and Deadlines

See <http://www.muohio.edu/international/events.php> for more information on upcoming events and deadlines, including times, locations and links for more information. If you plan on studying abroad in spring 2008, CHECK NOW to see what your program's application deadline is.

Remember that our **Study Abroad 101** group advising sessions are held several times a week throughout the semester – see the events page of our website for specific dates and times (See “What is Study Abroad 101” below for more information). Our last Study Abroad 101 session for the semester will be held December 11, so come by then if you'd like to pick up materials to take home over the break!

Study Abroad Advisors will be out of the office December 19 to January 5 for Winter Break. If you have any questions about study abroad, please ask or visit the Study Abroad Resource Center in 225 MacMillan before you leave for the semester, or we will not be able to answer until 2009! Happy Holidays!

2) Program Updates

- IFSA-Butler is introducing three new programs in Latin America for intermediate Spanish speakers in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Heredia, Costa Rica and Valparaíso, Chile. Intermediate Spanish is defined as 2-4 semesters of university-level Spanish or the equivalent; for most students this will be around the 200 level. All courses are offered in Spanish, but unlike IFSA-Butler's advanced programs in Latin America, students will take their courses with other American students rather than being integrated into a class with local students. Courses are likely to be more limited than on the advanced Spanish programs. See <http://ifsa-butler.org>.
- Even if the deadlines have passed, CEA is still accepting applications for programs with openings. For a list, see: http://www.gowithcea.com/spring_programs.html?Search1=o&Sort=date&Order=asc

3) Reminders for Spring 2009

Are you studying abroad in Spring 2009? Have you notified the Office of International Education? You can download our Steps to Studying Abroad checklist here: http://muohio.edu/international/pdf/steps_to_studying_abroad.pdf. You can use this checklist (along with any checklists given to you by your program provider) to make sure you get everything taken care of before you leave. There are three main forms:

- **Study Abroad Declaration Form** – from the Office of International Education – This form notifies the OIE, the Registrar and Information Technology of your intent to study abroad and keeps your accounts active while you are abroad.
- **Transfer Credit Approval Form** – from the Office of the Registrar – A list of the courses you're taking abroad and their Miami equivalents, signed by an academic adviser. This allows the Registrar's Office to process the transcript from your study abroad program when it arrives. Some advisers will require that you complete this form after you return, but many will pre-approve courses based on syllabi provided by your study abroad program.
- **Consortium Agreement** – from the Office of Student Financial Assistance – This is only required if you are applying federal financial aid or scholarships to your study abroad program. If you will be deferring student loans while abroad, you should consult SFA about that, too.

You may also need to complete forms for other offices if, for example, you are currently living in a residence hall and need to notify Housing, Dining and Guest Services of your plans to study abroad. More information about the steps to studying abroad can be found here: <http://www.muohio.edu/international/applying.php>

4) Making the Office a Little Greener

Staples take a lot of energy to create, can't be reused, and are small enough that they're seldom recycled. What's more, they're not archive-friendly and create headaches when documents need to be photocopied. Next time you're about to staple something together (for example, a two-page Study Abroad Declaration Form), think twice! We are happy to accept your Study Abroad Declaration Form printed front-to-back, unattached and submitted as loose pages, or attached with a reusable paperclip.

<http://planetgreen.discovery.com/work-connect/reduce-staple-waste.html>

The Office of International Education is also looking to implement other green strategies, like replacing paper documentation with online software solutions for registration, notification, program searching and more. Look for these changes coming to the International Student and Scholar Services side of the office this spring, and to the Study Abroad side in spring 2010!

5) Featured Study Abroad Program of the Month: ISEP Exchanges and ISEP-Direct

A study abroad exchange program is an opportunity for students to do a highly-integrated study abroad experience in a foreign university and take classes alongside local students, while paying their regular Miami University tuition. As a member of **ISEP (International Student Exchange Program)**, Miami University can send students to universities in over 30 countries all over the world on semester or year-long exchanges. It's a great opportunity for an independent student looking for immersion in another culture and another university system! For students studying a foreign language, it's a great opportunity to work on your language skills, but there are also many countries (from Iceland to Bulgaria to Thailand) where you can take all of your classes in English.

Countries available through ISEP Exchange include: Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom and Uruguay.

Some ISEP member universities are available through the **ISEP-Direct** program (rather than paying your Miami tuition like on an exchange, you pay a program fee directly to the foreign university – this may even be less expensive than your Miami tuition!). These include universities in Australia, Bulgaria, India and New Zealand. (In Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Toyo, Malta, Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom and Uruguay there are both Exchange and Direct options.)

If you have any questions about exchange programs or participating in an ISEP program, please contact Study Abroad Advisor Richard Menard (menardro@muohio.edu).

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