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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.

- April 6 – Application deadline for Bridging Scholarships
- April 7 – Application deadline for Gilman International Scholarship
- April 17 – Extended deadline for [Royal Holloway](#) program
- April 17 – Deadline to turn in Study Abroad Declaration Forms for summer 2009, fall 2009 or academic year 2009-10
- April 21 – Study Abroad Predeparture Orientation Session (for students studying abroad in summer 2009, fall 2009 and academic year 2009-10)

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.

2) Program Updates

- [CIEE](#)'s fall 2009 Tropical Ecology and Conservation program in Monteverde, Costa Rica, their fall 2009 Arabic Language program in Amman, Jordan and their summer 2009 Community Public Health program in Santiago, Dominican Republic are filling up quickly. If you're applying to one of these programs, get your applications in soon!
- [CIEE](#) deadline extensions can be found here: http://www.ciee.org/alerts_news/application_deadlines.aspx
- [IFSA-Butler](#) deadline extensions can be found here: <http://www.ifsa-butler.org/about-us/news-a-updates.html>
- [IES](#) deadline extensions can be found here: https://www.iesabroad.org/IES/About_IES/IES_News/Articles/newsArticle0076.html
- The Miami application deadline for [Royal Holloway](#) has been extended to April 17.

3) Information for Fall/Summer 2009 Students

Programs are filling up quickly for summer and fall 2009. If you're planning on applying but have not yet done so, please contact a study abroad advisor. If you are applying for summer or fall 2009 and have not yet submitted a Disciplinary Report Form to the Office of Ethics and Student Conflict Resolution, you can download that form here: http://www.units.muohio.edu/internationalprograms/pdf/disciplinary_report_form.pdf

4) A Note about Mexico

There has been much talk in the news lately about increased violence in Mexico. We and the providers we work with are very concerned with student safety and want to make it clear that they are monitoring the situation and have found no reason to cancel programs. Most study abroad programs in Mexico are well away from the border towns which are the focus of the violence, and are watching for signs of this aggression spreading.

If you'd like to get a better idea of the situation, you may want to read these responses and safety notes from the program providers:

- IFSA-Butler (Mérida): <http://www.ifsa-butler.org/mexico-overview.html>
- CIEE (Guanajuato): http://ciee.org/alerts_news.aspx?item_id=134
- ISA (Guadalajara, Guanajuato and Xalapa): <http://studiesabroad.com/programs/country/mexico/>

It's also a good idea to read any travel warnings from the US State Department before you go abroad: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_970.html

5) Less-Traveled Locations

Here's a word from one of our peer advisors, Tim Struve:

Study abroad, no matter where, is an integral component of any American college student's undergraduate career. Some of Miami University's most popular study abroad locations are: the U.K., France, Spain, Ireland, Italy, and Luxembourg. The trend obviously tends toward Western Europe for many understandable cultural and historical reasons. Another frequently cited reason for high Miami study abroad stats for this region is the European nations' geographic proximity to each other. Many students elect to spend their time abroad in France, for example, so as to be able to make weekend excursions to Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, England, Spain, and Italy. While each of these countries does possess its own arsenal of cultural treasures, there are many other regions of the world no less endowed that are considerably less visited by Miami University students and offer an equally valuable adventure abroad. Let the stage light shine on them.

Yes, Western Europe is relatively small compared to Sub-Saharan Africa, South America or East Asia. Does this have to mean that one would have an inferior experience in these larger regions? Of course not; the landscapes, terrains, cultures, languages, and peoples are quite diverse even if there are fewer national borders separating one region from another.

Having studied abroad myself in Chile, a country that stretches about 40° of latitude, I can attest that in some of the world's most underrated nations lie some of the world's most breathtaking landscapes, from the dry Atacama Desert in the north to the lush wine valleys in the central region to the Patagonian taiga in the deep south, and not to mention the Andes Mountains Range which divides the country from its most proximal neighbor. Travel in Chile is perfectly affordable, convenient, and there are several countries that are quite accessible from Chile, including Peru, Uruguay, and Argentina.

Be a pioneer. If you study French, look into Senegal, Cameroon, or Réunion instead of France. If you study Spanish, consider Costa Rica, Ecuador, Nicaragua or Peru instead of Spain. If it's Anthropology, think about Fiji, Kenya, or India. If you're a Political Science student, why not the Balkans, Oman, Uganda, or Brazil? If you study Sustainability, Urban Planning, or Environmental Sciences, take into consideration Panama, Vietnam, Australia, or Botswana. There is an entire WORLD of opportunities, make sure you weigh all options and don't restrict yourself—it just might end up being the best experience of your life!

6) Student Blogs

Students who are abroad this semester keep notifying us about the great blogs they're keeping while abroad. If you'd like to learn more about studying abroad on the ISEP exchange in Antofagasta, Chile, we invite you to check out [iSin Excusas!](#)

7) China Week

The Confucius Institute and the Department of German, Russian and East Asian Languages are hosting China Week, April 6-10. Events include:

- Monday, April 6: Opening reception, noon-2 p.m. at the Confucius Institute, 126 McGuffey Hall. Chinese paintings and calligraphy will be on display.
- Tuesday, April 7: Chinese skit competition finals, 6 p.m. at Leonard Theater in Peabody Hall. Groups from Miami's Chinese language classes will compete for a grand prize; Qing Biao Qu, president of Liaoning Normal University, will present a lecture on "World Views in Traditional Chinese Culture" at 4 p.m. at the art museum.
- Wednesday, April 8: "Night of China" concert, 7 p.m. at Leonard Theater in Peabody Hall. Featured will be performances of Chinese martial arts and traditional Chinese instruments by guests from Liaoning Normal University, Dalian, China. Also performing will be Miami's Glee Club and Miami sophomores, brothers Arvin and Anthony Ting, national wushu (Chinese martial art) champions for the Philippines.
- Friday, April 10: Chinese Handicraft Workshop, 2-4 p.m. at the Confucius Institute, 126 McGuffey; and Martial Arts and Tai Chi demonstration and lecture at 2 p.m. in the Shriver Center multipurpose room.

For more information, contact Quanyu Huang, director of the Confucius Institute, at huangq@muohio.edu or call 529-1849.

8) Featured Study Abroad Program of the Month: University of Nicosia, Cyprus



Looking for a relatively low-cost European option with a Mediterranean feel and courses offered in English? You might want to look into Global Learning Semesters' program at the University of Nicosia, Cyprus. Courses offered in English include Art & Design, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Communication, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, International Relations, Mathematics, Psychology, Social Work, Sociology and Sport Science.

Cyprus is now in the process of negotiating a union between its southern, Cypriot two-thirds (of which Nicosia is the capital) and the northern, Turkish-held "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus". This would be a fascinating time for Political Science or International Studies students to learn about nation-building first hand and to study the East-West mix of cultures in this region.

For more information on this program: <http://www.globalsemesters.com/Cyprus.html>

For more information on Cyprus: <http://www.units.muohio.edu/internationalprograms/sa-cy.php>

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