

GLOBAL BELLES

Study Abroad & International Education Newsletter

Fall 2021



FALL UPDATES

Saint Mary's College is listed **#35** in the 2022 U.S. News and World Report list of U.S. colleges sending most students abroad, with 49% of our 2020 graduates having participated in study abroad programs during their undergraduate years at Saint Mary's. This is the highest ranking on this list in Saint Mary's history.

More than 10 Saint Mary's students have received the 2021 First Passport Grant Award offered by the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership (CWIL). The grant will help them apply for their first passport and move forwards towards exploring the world.

The College will offer a new faculty-led program – Iceland Summer Program to be led by Dr. Terri Hebert in 2022. More information will be available online soon.

<http://www.saintmarys.edu/study-abroad/programs>

Editor: McKenzie Lokebill '22,
Communication Studies

WHAT YOU'LL FIND INSIDE:

- 2021 FALL PROGRAMS
- INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK RECAP



2021 Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant Hagar Hodeeb presenting during International Education Week, page 5.

2021 FALL PROGRAMS

FRANCE

"Studying abroad has allowed me to test my independence. I now trust the skills I have in French. Spending time alone has allowed me to rely on my instincts and decisions. Studying abroad and living with a host family has also allowed me to reflect on my family life in the United States and to appreciate even more the relationships I have with my family and friends".

- Shania Quintana '23, Global Studies



Pictured above: Annie Willison '23 and Madeline Law '23, the two Saint Mary's students in Rome. Pictured in Paris, "It reminded us of a little Avenue" Law said.



ROME

"It's not hyperbole when a student who has studied abroad says their experience was "life-changing." It's nearly impossible to take on this challenge and emerge unchanged in some way. For me, the very way I view my life, my world at home and at Saint Mary's, and how I understand the world and different cultures has fundamentally shifted. I truly feel that my eyes have been opened. There are little, more obvious things, like I find myself surprised when my English professor asks me, "How are you?" as a greeting. In Italy, such a question is reserved for people you know more closely, so while it's okay for my professor to ask since we've formed a relationship, it's still very odd to hear it in English. Other things, less obvious, come when I take the time to really think about

American culture from an outside perspective and find parts on which my opinion has changed. It's interesting to be aware of one's own opinions and world-view changing like that. It's both unnerving and thrilling to realize how much I still have yet to learn.

Adjusting to a new culture is a lot like walking on cobblestones, actually. At first, I tripped on every other crooked cobblestone. Now, I've learned to navigate those particular places, and I've come to love the little green plants that spring up between them. A simple metaphor, but certainly an appropriate one for Rome. I truly believe every student should study abroad, for there is only so much one can learn in a classroom".

-Madeline Law '23, English and Communication Studies

2021 FALL PROGRAMS



BUDAPEST

"I am the first Saint Mary's student to attend the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics program. While this program is extremely rigorous and challenging in its classes, there is always time for adventure as well. For example, this past weekend, my friends and I celebrated the end of midterms with a relaxing night in. We stayed up late, all squeezed into my bed, and then woke up at 4:30 am to see the sunrise from Gellért Hill in Buda. After a pit stop at McDonald's for coffee, we hiked up the hill and made it to the lookout point by around 6 am. From then, we watched the sunrise over the Budapest skyline. Despite the early morning and cold, this was such an incredibly beautiful way to spend a Saturday morning. Then, after a midmorning nap, we rallied, got all dressed up, and headed to our next adventure: the New York Café—which is considered one of the most beautiful coffee houses in the world. My friends and I shared macaroons, lattes, Prosecco, finger-sandwiches, chocolates, and pastries whilst surrounded by the ornate, golden interior of the café; we were even serenaded by a violinist right next to our table. This was such a wonderful day from my semester abroad, and it is just one of the many days spent exploring the interesting, unique, historic, and modern city of Budapest, Hungary."

- Annika Smith '23, Mathematics



IRELAND

"Studying in Ireland has provided me with life experiences that are invaluable. With Maynooth University having a large international student population, I have not only been able to learn about Irish culture, but also that of many other countries. I have been able to develop a global perspective, which has significantly changed the way I think about life. Being immersed in a culture different from your own pushes you to realize that there is so much more going on in the world outside of your home country than you could imagine. Ireland quickly became a second home to me and I have met friends and made memories that will truly last a lifetime."

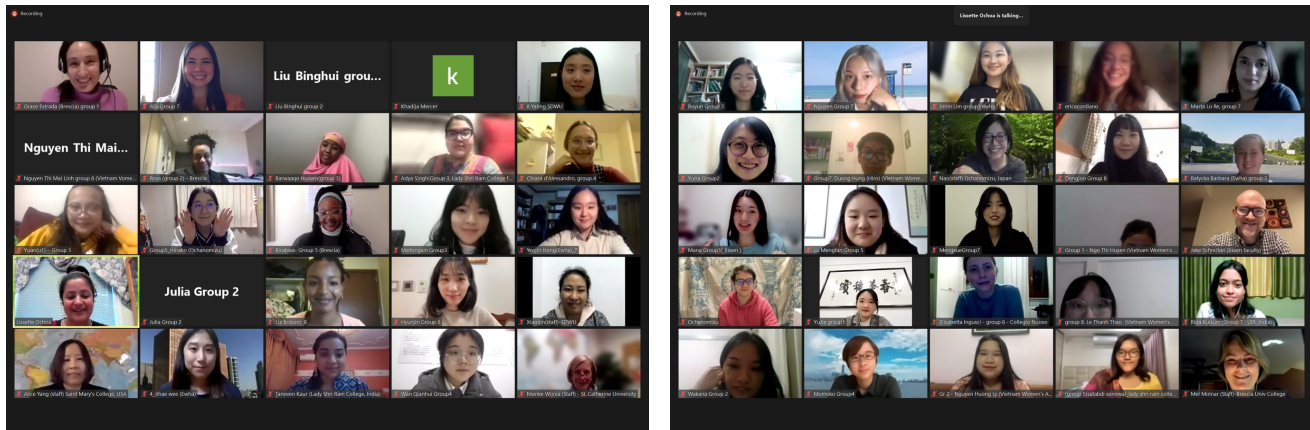
- Sydney Ellis '23, Global Studies

International Education Week Recap

International Education Week (IEW) is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide.

Global Intercultural Dialogue Event

Ally Emmett '22, Study Abroad Peer Advisor



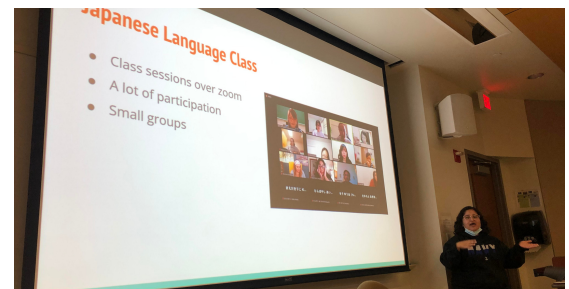
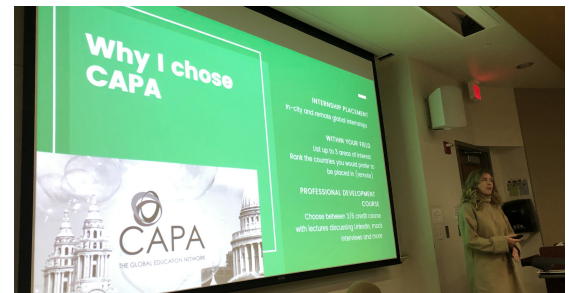
On Saturday, November 6th, three Saint Mary's students and I logged into Zoom to join a global community. The Global Intercultural Dialogue event, hosted by Brescia University College in London, Canada, included 80 students and staff from women's colleges across the world. Our Zoom room included representation from Bahrain, China, Canada, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, and the United States. This session's topic was the importance of women in leadership roles and we met in small discussion groups to have an intimate space to share what this means to each of us in our differing contexts. We shared inspiring women in different industries, policies which promote or hinder women in leadership, and how identities/social statuses outside of gender impact how women move through their respective cultures. Although we were discussing, as my peer stated, "unfortunate commonalities" which keep women from being accurately represented in leadership positions, spirits were lively. Many expressed excitement about forming new, global connections to discuss issues important to them. One student shared a lack of acceptance that occurs when talking about women's issues in her context, so this networking opportunity was especially important for her. The event was a setting for learning through intercultural dialogue and developing mutual understanding around a shared issue. We are also making connections we will foster in the next February event when we discuss a new topic.



International Education Week Recap

Intercultural Learning Showcase

Returning study abroad students and inbound exchange students shared stories about their international and intercultural learning experiences from their prospective programs or countries on Nov. 15. Marirose Osborne and Mary Mansfield from the Oxford program shared their learning experiences during Covid-19, while McKenzie Lokebill and Saomi Segura shared about their remote learning experiences. Segura completed a summer course to learn Japanese where she connected with group members to develop a better understanding of the language. Lokebill spoke of her experience as an intern with the Bambuddha Group located in Sydney, Australia as a part of the CAPA internship program. Selma El Aouli, a Moroccan exchange student, discussed her home university and the diverse opportunities they offer for study abroad programs. The Intercultural Learning Showcase finished with a presentation by Ally Emmet, featured on page 4.



Women and Hijab in the Arab World

Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant, Hagar Hodeeb from Egypt delivered a lecture about women and hijab on November 17. "I addressed the misconceptions about Hijab. I clarified what the word Hijab means and how it has a broader concept in Islamic notion. In terms of modesty, privacy, and humbleness, stressing that Hijab is not limited to wearing a headscarf only. Out of all the other connotations to Hijab except for covering the head, the Hijab is not only for Women, it is also for men. Wearing Hijab is not limited to a specific color or type of clothing as long as it is covering the extent of the body loose, and not transparent. I can be wearing Hijab and still be fashionable, modest, and beautiful. Additionally, I pointed out at the misconception that all Arab Muslim women wear the Hijab forcibly and that it is not true".

International Education Week Recap

Passport Photo Day

Each year the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership (CWIL) offers free passport photos for students and staff who need them. Study Abroad Peer Advisor Mary Mansfield aided participants with forms as they prepared to take their photos. This event takes place each year, and is in place to aid those who want to travel.



Photo: Carrie Rulli



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International Cultural Festival

On November 18 students and faculty gathered to watch participants from departments including: Art, Languages and Cultures, Music, La Fuerza, Spanish Club, and Student Diversity Board showcase their talents and work. Performances and presentations allow those who are not able to travel the opportunity to learn about other cultures. Students and faculty were able to share their knowledge outside of the classroom to those who may not have the opportunity to take courses within certain departments. Pictured in the center, Jaida Beasley '25 stated "I think sharing different cultures' customs or practices is important because it brings awareness and teaches the younger generation a more broad viewpoint of the world around them." Saint Mary's Campus Dining offered delicious Asian, Spanish, Arabic/Mediterranean, French, and Italian food to Saint Mary's community for the celebration.

The 2021 International Education Week events were sponsored by the Saint Mary's College Campus Dining, Modern Languages and Cultures, Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership, and Multicultural & International Student Services.