

GLOBAL BELLES

Study Abroad & International Education Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2021



SPRING/SUMMER UPDATES

In this newsletter the CWIL-Global Education Office is happy to provide updates on the spring and summer programs. Due to the global pandemic, most spring and summer 2021 programs were canceled out of concern and safety for both our Belles and all the citizens in the countries we would've visited. We are blessed to still have some opportunities available, including the Oxford Program, CAPA Remote Global Internship Program, JCU-Italy Starts (volunteer Program), and online courses offered by our partners in South Korea and Japan. We are still continuing to work diligently on monitoring Covid-19 globally and welcome international/exchange students to study abroad at SMC. As we strive for intercultural appreciation and education, please find inspiration with student testimonials and photos.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND INSIDE:

- **INBOUND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**
- **SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMS**
- **GILMAN SCHOLARS**
- **GLOBAL COMPETENCE CERTIFICATE**
- **2021-22 STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS**



2021 Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant - Chih-Ting Lu

UPDATES ON INBOUND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Semester at SMC Program

Saint Mary's has launched the Semester at SMC Program and invites international students from around the world to study abroad at SMC for one semester or one year. We are open to any qualified female undergraduate students. No institutional agreement is needed for this program. We hope SMC can become a popular study abroad destination.

<https://www.saintmarys.edu/cwil/international-programs>

Fulbright Language Teaching Assistants

Two Fulbright Language Teaching Assistants (FLTA) have arrived and will work/study at SMC for a year. Ms. Chih-Ting Lu from Taiwan will help teach Mandarin Chinese and Ms. Hagar Atef from Egypt will help teach Arabic. The FLTA Program is sponsored by the US Department of State's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs and is designed to develop Americans' knowledge of foreign cultures and languages.

Inbound Exchange Program

Saint Mary's will host one exchange student from Morocco in the fall. Her name is Selma El Aouli and is a current student at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane (AUI), the host university of our Morocco Program. We are striving to create a welcoming learning environment for our inbound Global Belles.

Spring/Summer Programs

JCU ITALY STARTS PROGRAM



Saint Mary's students had the opportunity to participate in John Cabot University's "Italy Starts Program". Participating JCU/partner university students (mentors) volunteer to be connected to Italian high school students (mentees) to solve real business problems or develop business models for their business or social venture idea. The following three students served as Mentor this summer and received a certificate of participation from JCU, the host university of our Rome Program.

- Daniela Cantos (mentor of Team "Clear-clean water")
- Bailee Grove (mentor of Team "Eco Curtains with solar panels")
- Delaney Smith (mentor of Team "Green Ocean")

2021 Japan Summer Virtual Program

I am taking the beginners Japanese language course and I'd say it's been going great, and the people I have met are very friendly and helpful. The course is kind of difficult because they require you to learn to read before you enter, and don't warn you that you should basically already know how to write, but they do give you a few weeks to learn so. Putting in the work makes it worthwhile, since I started at 0 and now have a good basic understanding of the language. I want to continue studying afterwards until I'm at least at the intermediate level, so I can apply what I've learned in the real world.

-Saomi Segura '22, Physics and Applied Math



Saomi and her friend Akiho Sakamoto



2020-21 SMC Oxford Program

"It really doesn't get any better than Oxford. This program gave me the unique opportunity to pursue my studies in Oxford's rigorous and engaging academic system surrounded by a close community of talented students from around the world in the heart of a city known and loved for its history, learning, and culture. What I appreciated most was being able to balance an intense workload with a rich cultural and social immersion so there was no need to sacrifice one for the other as the two go hand in hand to create the quintessential, and incomparable, Oxford experience."

-Mary Mansfield '22, Philosophy

<https://www.saintmarys.edu/study-abroad/united-kingdom-oxford>



Spring/Summer Programs

CAPA

The CAPA Global Education Network summer remote global internship program has significantly improved my readiness for addressing diversity in the workplace. The program consists of an internship placement where individuals complete 20 hours a week, and a course held once a week for the duration of the program.

I was placed with the Bambuddha Group in Sydney Australia, a business with values in sustainability and equality that offers coaching and social responsibility programs for businesses. Throughout the internship I completed various tasks like subtitling videos, sourcing images for a content bank, and poster design, all which fall under my professional interests and mimic my minor, communication studies. I had such a remarkable experience in the first few weeks that I was able to extend the internship for another month longer than the original program. I was even offered a job after I completed my mock interview as a part of the CAPA course.

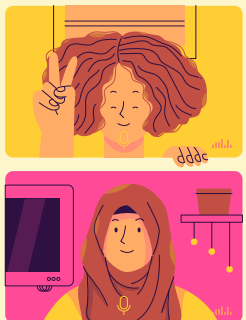
-McKenzie Lookebill '22, Communication Studies



GLOBAL WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SUSI

Despite being the first time it was limited to an online context due to the coronavirus pandemic, the 2021 Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) program proved to be an exemplary model of resilience and dialogue across difference. Bringing together some of the brightest minds from 23 countries, SUSI Global Women's Leadership is a U.S. Department of State-sponsored program devoted to the empowerment of women and their development as future leaders not only in their own communities, but around the world. For this year's summer edition of SUSI Global Women's Leadership, Saint Mary's College served as a virtual host institution for women from Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq/Kurdistan, Jordan, and Tunisia. Five Saint Mary's students also participated in the program as U.S. representatives. The two-month virtual intensive study of the U.S. was led by Dr. Emily Rose McManus as the Academic Director, Stefanie Winnicki ('21) as the Administrative Director, and Cadie Lourigan ('22) as the Student Program Coordinator, accompanied by interactive Zoom courses guest-lectured by Dr. Marc Belanger, Dr. Mana Derakhshani, Dr. Ann Marie Short, Dr. Stacy Davis, Dr. Jamie Wagman, and Ms. Stacie Jeffers of Career Crossings. Each class session challenged participants to engage in meaningful dialogue across difference, cultivating thoughtful conversations around issues of gender, history, religion, politics, and personal development. At the end of the program, students additionally prepared a final microgrant "action plan project" to address an issue of their choice affecting women and children in their home country. All involved in the success of the 2021 SUSI program can attest to the participants' zeal for knowledge and mutual understanding and should feel great pride in the international friendships resulting from this collaboration.

-Stefanie Winnicki '21, Global Studies



2021 Gilman Scholar Winners

Congratulations to the following three students who won the prestigious Gilman Scholarship!

Jennifer Chavez'22 (Global Studies, Fall 2021 South Korea Program)

Brianna Willison'23 (Communication Studies, Fall 2021 Rome Program)

Jacquelyn Junco'23 (Global Studies, Spring 2022 Australia Program)

The Gilman International Scholarship Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), which fosters mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries to promote friendly, sympathetic, and peaceful relations.

<https://www.gilmanscholarship.org>

Global Competence Certificate (GCC) Training

Saint Mary's study abroad students will have the opportunity to take the Global Competence Certificate (GCC) Course before, during and after their study abroad program. It's a blended online learning program offered by AFS- Intercultural Programs and develops tangible global skills essential to live, work and make a real social impact around the world. The program offers self-paced online video-based modules and participants are required to attend 3-4 facilitated dialogue sessions. GCC aims to help students develop their intercultural/global competence while studying abroad.

STUDENT REFLECTION

"The Global Competence Certificate offered by AFS was an exceptionally valuable opportunity to learn more about how to contextualize abroad experiences in an intercultural mindset. I learned tools that were valuable in preparing for a journey abroad, dealing with conflict and change during the journey, and how to readjust to life upon return."

-Shayla O'Connor '21, English Literature and Writing

Plans for Fall 2021



The CWIL Global Education Office continues to monitor COVID-19 and remain vigilant on the state of the world as to ensure the safety for students who have decided to study abroad this fall. The following programs are back in person for the Fall 2021 semester:

- France
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- South Korea



Spring 2022 Deadline

Students may apply for the Spring 2022 study abroad programs by **October 1**. More information is available at the following webpages.

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

<https://www.saintmarys.edu/studyabroad/faq>

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