

# Study abroad fair highlights program opportunities for students

By Ashlyn Kennedy | Reporter

The Center for Global Engagement hosted its biannual study abroad fair on Thursday, February 8, to give students a look at what summer and fall study abroad opportunities are available.

The fair was held in the Barfield Drawing Room in the Bill Daniel Student Center. While normally held on a Tuesday during Dr. Pepper Hour, the fair was moved to a Thursday to see how many students came solely in interest of studying abroad.

Holly Joyner, the Associate Director of Global Engagement and Marketing for the Center of Global Engagement, helped to put on the event. She said that the fair is a great option for students to compare all the different programs in one place.

"We have it all on our website, but sometimes you just want to talk to someone and really get a feel for it," Joyner said. "You can actually talk to a faculty member who's done this, who's been there, and they can give you a realistic explanation of what's going on."

According to the Center for Global Engagement website, Baylor offers over 100 different study abroad options. Joyner said that currently, upwards of 700 students will be going on a number of study abroad programs this summer with Baylor.

Joyner also said that Baylor's study abroad is unique because there are so many faculty-led programs offered. Currently, faculty lead almost 45 different programs through the study abroad office.

"It's really neat to be able to go abroad, but also have a faculty member with you the whole time and be with other Baylor students," Joyner said.

San Antonio senior Ella Ulestad has worked as a peer advisor with the Study Abroad office for almost two years after spending her sophomore spring semester in Dublin. She said that what stuck out to her about Baylor's study abroad opportunities was how tailored they were to students' interests.

"We have specific programs for everyone from pre-health students to pre-law students," Ulestad said, "We really can find something for everybody regardless of your major, your professional track or your minor."

Ulestad said she encourages everyone to study abroad if they can, as it was a great way for her to learn a lot about herself and what she was capable of.

"I really think it's important for students to be uncomfortable in that sense because I think you're really going to reach your full potential," Ulestad said. "I also just think immersing yourself in another culture for a little bit is really interesting."

Joyner said that the two biggest roadblocks to students studying abroad are financials and coursework. She said that several student scholarships are available to help relieve financial stress.

Joyner's advice to students is to start looking sooner rather than later at potential programs and to utilize the resources the Center for Global Engagement has for students.

"It's always good to come early to our office and ask," Joyner said. "And by going into our office and asking the right questions, I think we can alleviate those fears."

The deadline to apply to summer and fall study abroad programs is March 1. To find information on the study abroad programs offered, visit <https://bearsabroad.baylor.edu/>.