

# Annual Stay Abroad Meeting

Oct 4th, 2018  
Room F022  
17:00 - 19:00

Joseph Comer  
Edward Wright

# Outline for Stay Abroad Meeting:

1. Independent Studies information
2. Outline of BA Study programme
3. Description of Stay Abroad
  - English-speaking countries?
  - What if I went abroad before studying?
  - Planning and approval
4. Options for the Stay Abroad Module
  - Studying abroad
  - Working abroad
5. What to do on your return..
6. Student testimonies!

# Independent Studies & Study Abroad

Don't forget what happens afterwards!

→ preparing for your BA thesis by doing fieldwork abroad

- 1) Think about a potential thesis topic BEFORE you head off
- 2) Find a relevant member of staff

**Studies > Course Types and Modules > Thesis Information >  
Thesis Supervisors**

- 3) Collect data while away

# Independent Studies & Study Abroad

Collect once, benefit twice!

- 1) Material for BA thesis.
- 2) Extra credit as Independent Studies if you “donate” your data to the department.

# Independent Studies & Study Abroad

## Data Collection = Independent Studies

- > [http://www.ens.unibe.ch/studies/course\\_types\\_and\\_modules/independent\\_studies/index\\_eng.html](http://www.ens.unibe.ch/studies/course_types_and_modules/independent_studies/index_eng.html)

1 – 5 ECTS, Wahlleistungen, not graded

e.g. accent and dialect fieldwork:

2 ECTS for recordings of spoken informal conversational English

- 12 speakers (older/younger, male/female)
- One location
- Each recording at least 60 minutes
- High quality recording equipment
- Consent form
- Personal background information sheet
- Donate recordings to the Department for use in teaching and research

# Recap: BA Study Programme

- 1. Foundation Phase:** The main focus lies on the acquisition of methodological competences in the areas of linguistics and history of English, literature and academic language use.
- 2. Focusing Phase:** This phase concentrates on the development of subject expertise, which is deepened within selectable thematic foci.
- 3. Application Phase:** The research focus is developed further and students explore their academic interests in their Bachelor Thesis.

# Description of Stay Abroad

The compulsory Stay Abroad Module is usually carried out during the Focusing Phase (years 2-3) of students' studies. The point of this module is for students to live abroad and be immersed in an English-speaking country and culture.

**For both English majors and minors a stay abroad is compulsory:**

- > **for Majors 6 months (24 weeks): 10 ECTS points**
- > **for Minors at least 3 months (12 weeks): 5-10 ECTS points**

NB. The PH has changed its requirement for English. Prospective English teachers must also have spent at least 6 months (24 weeks) abroad.

- > BA minor students may extend their stay abroad to six months, and earn up to 10 ECTS. The number of points in your ungraded Wahlleistungen varies accordingly.

# English Speaking Countries?

- > Countries where English is the **primary vernacular language**, i.e. the language that one would hear most often on the street.
  - e.g. US, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, South Africa!
- > Some flexibility is allowed where English is an official language but not (necessarily) the primary vernacular.
  - e.g. Hong Kong, Singapore, Malta, Quebec, India, Anglophone Africa ...

**NB. The PH is not necessarily as liberal as we are!**

# What if I went abroad before studying?

Can I get time spent abroad prior to my studies acknowledged for the Stay Abroad?

- > ECTS points are not granted to students who are not matriculated with us. This means that although you may receive recognition of **time** for your Stay Abroad, you will have to make up for the 5 to 10 **ECTS points** that you would normally have acquired on your Stay Abroad by taking courses. Each case is evaluated on an individual basis.
- > Please send a formal letter to the Head of Department with copies of transcripts, plane tickets, etc. Be specific about when you were abroad and when you started studying with us. Only stays abroad that took place no more than two years prior to the beginning of studies can be considered.

# Planning and approval

Students are advised to start planning their Stay Abroad Module **at least a year in advance** due to application requirements, visa regulations, etc. Fitting six months abroad into a three-year (six semester) program is obviously difficult!

- > **Organization of the stay abroad is the responsibility of students!**
- > **Accreditation is the job of the International Coordinators!**

A stay abroad **must be approved in advance** by the English Department's International Coordinators:

- > Joe Comer (student surnames A-K)
- > Ed Wright (student surnames L-Z)

# Splitting the Stay Abroad Module

- > Majors not wishing to complete their Stay Abroad Module in one stint may split their stay into three parts (none shorter than a month).
- > Minor students can split the Stay Abroad Module into two (none shorter than a month).
  
- > This rule is valid for both students who study and for students who work abroad.
- > If you have time spent abroad prior to matriculation recognised, this does not count as splitting.

# Options for the Stay Abroad Module

1. Study Abroad
2. Work/Volunteer Abroad

There are broad definitions for  
“working abroad”!

Use your imagination!

# Studying Abroad

These options are available through the International Office at the University of Bern:

1. SEMP (Erasmus)
2. ISEP
3. Exchanges Worldwide

There is also the possibility of:

4. A tailored option – studying at a university abroad on your own initiative!
5. Studying a short course abroad, in a topic of your own choosing (not necessarily for ECTS)

# Studying Abroad: SEMP (Erasmus)

Studying through SEMP (Erasmus) allows students the opportunity to travel abroad and study English at a different university within Europe. Bern currently has agreements with four eligible universities:

- > **University of Ulster (NI)**: 4 places per year, 4 months each
- > **University of Kent, Canterbury**: 2 places per year, 6 months each
- > **University of Limerick (I)**: 4 places per year, 5 months each
- > **University of Malta\***: 1 place per year, 12 months (at this stage)
- > **University of Essex, Colchester** 2 places per year: 9 months each

Normally more students wanting to go than spots available, so these places are **competitive!**

- > Students must go through an internal application process!

# Selection Process for SEMP (Erasmus)

- > Attractions: free application; grant (1,500 CHF/semester) for successful applicants.
- > To be considered for a SEMP (Erasmus) place, submit an application dossier (as a single PDF) to the Department Office c/o Joe Comer or Ed Wright by midnight on **November 11**.
- > Dossiers will include:
  - A letter of motivation (e.g. Where are you in your studies? Have you spent time abroad before?)
  - A ranking of your preferences for the (currently) three possible universities
  - University of Bern transcript/statement of results
- > Successful students will be informed before the end of November.
- > Please be aware that each university has different course offerings (technically, the agreements are between faculties, not entire universities).

# Studying Abroad: ISEP

- > Studying through the ISEP program allows students the opportunity to travel abroad and study English at a different university in the U.S., Canada, U.K. or in other countries around the world.
- > The University of Bern is a member of the International-to-International ISEP-Exchange. ISEP has agreements with 150 universities in the U.S. and 160 universities worldwide, offering opportunities for students to study at one of these universities for one or two semesters.
  
- > Deadlines: **December 15** for the autumn semester or autumn and spring semester; **June 15** for the spring semester
- > Application fee of 390 USD
- > Everyone gets a place (perhaps not first preference)!

# Studying Abroad: Exchanges Worldwide

The University of Bern currently has other direct agreements with:

- > University of Wisconsin, Whitewater
- > Sam Houston State University
- > University of Ottawa, Canada
- > University of Technology, Sydney, Australia
- > Stellenbosch University, South Africa
- > Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- > Singapore Management University, Singapore
  
- > Deadline for applications: **January 15** for autumn and/or spring semester, and **June 15** for remaining places for spring semester (if available)\*

# Studying Abroad: Exchanges Worldwide

## Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas

- > The University of Bern has a direct exchange programme with Sam Houston State University (not the ISEP programme). This entails a full waiver of fees.
- > One hour from Houston airport
- > Near a large national forest (camping and hiking)
- > Many university organisations to join for outdoor activities
- > All courses are open to international students
- > Low cost of living

# Study Abroad: Tailored options

- > Students wanting to go to a university of their own choosing may do so. It is their own responsibility to find out about application procedures, deadlines and admission fees for foreign students.
- > NYU, Oxford, University College London ... Opportunities abound for fabulous experiences at esteemed institutions!
- > You are also able to study abroad at non-tertiary institutions or via other means. You can attend photography courses, international relations courses, or learn to be a scuba instructor!
- > Yes, language schools are possible ... **However**, it is important to bear in mind if you are enrolled in a BA in English, you might not need an English language course!

# Study Abroad: Agreement

- > Once you have secured a place at a university, you need to sign a learning agreement, outlining courses, with your International Coordinator.
- > No university is the same, and therefore it is difficult to provide a precise outline of how course credits at the foreign university are translated into ECTS points at the University of Bern.
- > A rough guide (at the discretion of the International Coordinator):
  - 1 ECTS = 2 British/South African credits;
  - All courses taught at Limerick are awarded 6 ECTS;
  - 2 ECTS = 1 American course credit;
  - 0.5 ECTS cannot be awarded – but we can work around this!
- > Students who study abroad at a foreign university are awarded ECTS (between 5 and 10) for the courses they complete, and the stay abroad itself.
- > Courses in English/literature/linguistics can go in your ungraded Wahlleistungen, all courses can go in your Wahlbereich.

# Studying Abroad: Time Deficit

- > Majors must bear in mind that some semesters abroad will not qualify for the full six month requirement.
- > Students studying abroad may end up with a “time deficit”! This needs to be made up either by means of a short internship, volunteer experience, or further study.
- > Again, use your imagination – the International Coordinators can recognise a broad range of activities, including fieldwork for your BA thesis (proof is required for any activity: work, study, research...)

# Working Abroad

- > <https://www.movetia.ch/en/>
- > Possibilities through AIESEC, Amity International, SCI Schweiz, Internship Makers, Workaway.info, Projects Abroad ... countless others! Google is your friend, but make sure you trust any organization you consider working for.
- > Voluntourism ... perhaps, decided on a case-by-case basis!
  
- > Please note that working exclusively in a language other than English is not sufficient. However, some work in German, French, etc. is permitted (e.g. call centres).
- > Again, the PH may not be so liberal when it comes to accepting non-English work as part of their entry requirements. If in doubt, check with them!

# Working Abroad: Teaching (Amity Inst.)

- > The **Amity Institute** offers assistant teacher possibilities in the U.S.
- > Interns assist at primary and secondary schools for an entire academic year or for a semester. The application process consists of submitting the mandatory pre-application form and once you are selected for the next round, you must be interviewed by a screening officer (International Coordinator) for 25-30 minutes.
  
- > Deadline: no clear deadline, depends on when you want to go!
- > See further: <http://www.amity.org>

# Working Abroad: AIESEC

AIESEC is the world's largest student organisation, helping other students go on an internship abroad in one of over 126 countries. Their main products are:

- > Volunteering Internship:
  - 6-8 weeks (you could do 2 after each other)
  - Teaching, social work, ...
  - Develop cultural understanding
- > Professional Internship:
  - 3-18 months
  - Work in a company/school with salary
  - Get global work experience
- > <http://aiesec.ch>

# Working Abroad

- > Any work done abroad in an English-speaking country must be organized by students themselves. Visas, if they are necessary, must also be organized by students themselves.
- > Students may wish to consider the Erasmus Internship Program. Students doing an internship abroad may earn a monthly stipend of CHF 420. Internships must be organized on your own behalf and take place during the academic year:  
[http://www.unibe.ch/studies/mobilitaet/students/outgoing/international/semp\\_erasmus\\_internship](http://www.unibe.ch/studies/mobilitaet/students/outgoing/international/semp_erasmus_internship)
- > In the past students have worked with ski companies, outdoor education companies, conservation organisations and other NGOs, festivals, language schools, publishing houses, and other diverse organisations.
- > Students have worked in hotels, at IKEA, a radio station, in a call centre, as an au pair, at a drama school..
- > **Again, use your imagination!**

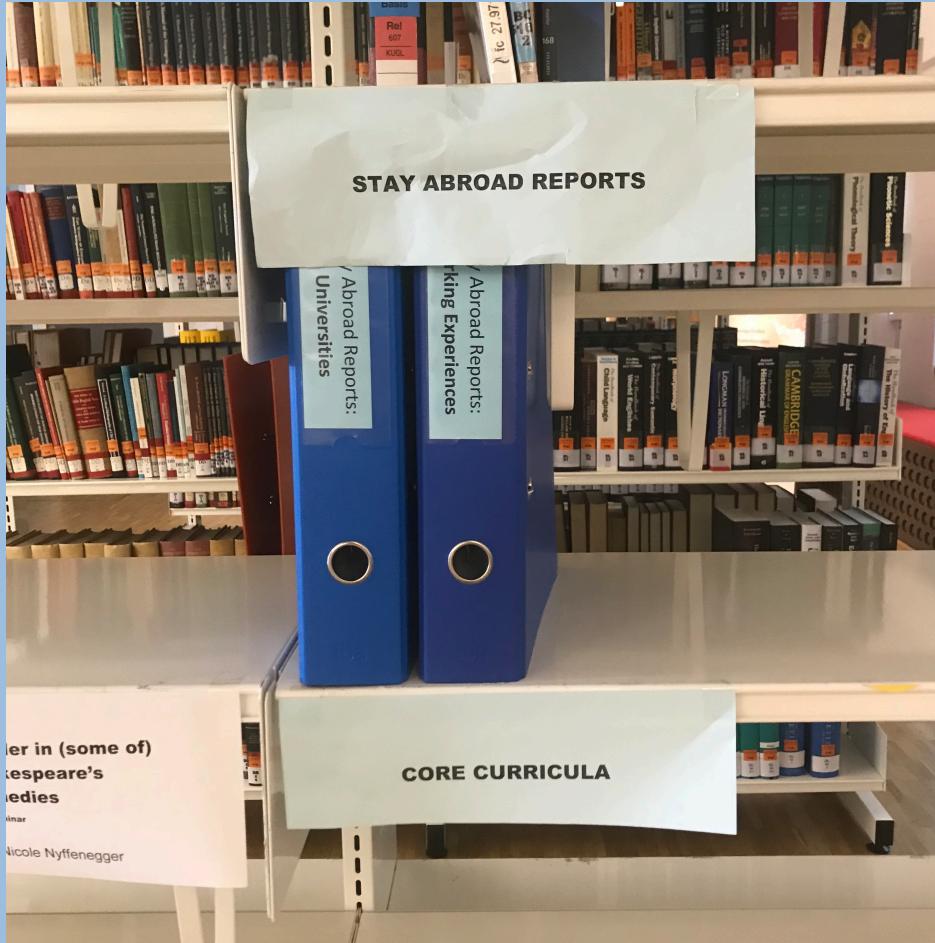
# Working Abroad: Agreement

- > Once students have organized a position abroad, they meet with Joe Comer or Ed Wright to confirm the suitability of the post, and fill out a learning agreement.
- > A contract or confirmation of employment may be required at this time.
- > Students need to make sure they work/volunteer (or study and work) at least six months in total (Majors) or three months (Minors).
- > Students need to make sure all agreements are kept together, if they choose to split the stay abroad. **The IC does not hold onto your documents for you!**

# On Your Return

- > Students submit a dossier to Joe Comer or Ed Wright including:
  - A copy of plane tickets
  - A copy of the stay abroad agreement form
  - A transcript from university attended *or*
  - A confirmation letter from the employer stating the period during which the student worked.
  - A 750-word essay about their time abroad OR a commitment to give a 5-minute oral presentation at the annual stay abroad meeting.

# Stay Abroad Report Folders



# Website and Contact Details

- > [www.ens.unibe.ch/studies/course\\_types\\_and\\_modules/stay\\_abroad/](http://www.ens.unibe.ch/studies/course_types_and_modules/stay_abroad/)
- > Check this website for basic information regarding the Stay Abroad Module (including this powerpoint, FAQ, and a go-to-guide).
- > Both the BA Stay Abroad Agreement Sheet and BA Stay Abroad Submission Sheet are available online here. Rules for the Stay Abroad Module are detailed in the footnotes to these forms.
- > For further questions, please come to our office hours:
  - Comer: Monday 16:00 – 17:00, or by appointment
  - Wright: Monday afternoons by appointment

**NB. These roles are subject to change from Spring 2019 (Joe Comer working remotely in December 2018). If in doubt, check the Who to Ask section of the website.**

# Student Testimonies!

- > Claudia Pasqualotto: Oxford Brookes University, UK
- > Alex Jespersen: Skate internship in Bristol, UK
- > Lisa Hilti: University of Essex, UK
- > Marion Troxler: Auckland University, New Zealand
- > Talitha Burri: Surfing/humanitarian organization in Hawaii, USA
- > Laura Wolgermuth: Surf instructors' course in South Africa
- > Serena Wölfel: University of Ulster, Belfast, Northern Ireland
- > Gael Stucki: Scotland
- > Alex Schneeberger: New York Film Academy
- > Gorane Lottenbach: Language school in UK

# Questions?

[claudia.pasqualotto@bluewin.ch](mailto:claudia.pasqualotto@bluewin.ch)

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## Questions?

- > [marion.troxler@students.unibe.ch](mailto:marion.troxler@students.unibe.ch)
- > ...or just talk to me!

04.10.2018

Laura Wohlgemuth

# Stay Abroad

Surf Instructor Course with Ticket to Ride South Africa

WWOOFing (Willing Workers on Organic Farms) in New Zealand

# **ULSTER UNIVERSITY AND VOLUNTEERING IN BELFAST**

Stay Abroad Meeting October 2018

Serena Wölfel

# How?

> Fronteering: [fronteering.com](http://fronteering.com)

Contact: via website

> SWT: [scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Contact: Peter Gilbert (information at request)

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