“This was a thirteen-year dream come true for me! Thank you UHD for the opportunity!”
-COB student Destiny Ziarkowski, Santiago, Chile

In 2016-17 139 UHD students studied or volunteered abroad on faculty-led, exchange, provider and community service programs. UHD faculty traveled with students to Vietnam, Cambodia, Costa Rica, the United Kingdom, Scandinavia and Poland. More students than ever chose independent programs with UHD exchange partners and affiliated providers. Students took classes in Japan, South Korea, Chile, Italy, France, Spain, Finland, Mexico, Austria, Nepal, Germany, and Greece.
UHD-Finland Exchange
Last year UHD signed an MOU with The University of Jyväskylä (JYU) in Finland. Three honors students enrolled in JYU’s summer school following the UHD Honors in Scandinavia program led by Drs. Mari Nicholson-Preuss and Travis Crone. The students enjoyed two week-long intensive courses and integrated themselves in the Finnish education system. Four students from JYU will attend UHD in spring 2018.

UHD College of Business Exchange in France
Since 2012, UHD has maintained an exchange agreement with EDHEC in Lille and Nice, France, and a total of 17 students have benefited from this exchange. Last year UHD’s Carmen Zapata (pictured left) planned to spend the fall semester in Nice, but she loved it so much that she extended her stay and even won a Gilman Scholarship to cover her expenses for the spring semester. This fall UHD welcomes four students from our French partner: Clement Sorin, Jean-Charles Senant, Julien Henrot-Dias (pictured left), and Ahmed Charfeddine are all taking classes at the Davies College of Business.
Community Engagement Abroad

The Office of Study Abroad offered two international community engagement scholarships to two UHD students who wanted to make a difference abroad, Eisha Khan, CHSS, and Rajni Dhadral, CST.

“This past spring I had the incredible opportunity to travel to Europe to work with Syrian refugees though UHD’s Study Abroad Community Grant. The aim of this community engagement was to provide a social-emotion learning program to Syrian refugees living in camps. I collaborated with the organization Happy Caravan who work under the supervision of UHCR to provide after school education to refugee in Netherland and Greece.”

-Eisha Khan

Upcoming Programs

Spring Break 2018
Community Engagement in Ecuador

May 2018 Programs
Children’s Literature Tour – London and Paris (CPS)
UHD in Cuba (CHSS)

Summer 2018 Programs
UHD in Ghana (CHSS)
UHD in Costa Rica (CHSS/CPS)
UHD in Italy (CHSS)
More coming soon!

CPS student Taylor Clarke in Salzburg, Austria
New International Partners
In an effort to increase study abroad opportunities for UHD students, last year UHD signed or renewed agreements with five education abroad providers as well as the following universities: Universidad Antonio de Nebrija, Madrid, Spain; University of Jyväskylä, Finland; University of Gdansk, Poland; University of Warsaw, Department of Geology, Poland; and Bialystock University of Technology, Poland. Studying abroad on an exchange program is the most affordable way for UHD students to spend time abroad and we are actively seeking new partnerships to make international education accessible to everyone.

Global Ambassadors
Five UHD students are serving as global ambassadors to help spread the word about international opportunities at UHD. The current ambassadors are Carmen Zapata and Eric Vo (College of Business), and Taylor Clarke, Melody Hall and Abigail Murillo (College of Public Service). The ambassadors serve as peer advisors to UHD students who are interested in studying abroad, help to promote international opportunities on campus, and welcome incoming exchange students.
International Education Week 2017
International Education Week is November 13-17.

November 13 Study Abroad Fair
November 14 International Breakfast
November 15 Cultural Exploration Dinner
(sponsored by Community Engagement)
November 16 International Potluck
November 20 Passport Day

Look for the Study Abroad Photo Contest, games and information tables throughout the week.

Where do Gators want to study?

At orientation and during Welcome Week we asked Gators about their study abroad plans. 93% of the students surveyed said they want to study abroad while at UHD. Here’s where they want to go:

1. United Kingdom
2. France
3. Spain
4. Italy
5. Japan
6. Costa Rica
7. Australia
8. South Korea
9. Germany
10. China
Student Experiences

“I have learned a lot about how spent fuel repositories work. I was fascinated, seeing how Swedish people protect their environment and their safe handling of nuclear spent fuel. The best part was meeting students from different walks in life. I had the chance to network with graduate students and we exchanged small gifts as well. Overall, it was a life changing experience, thanks for the support University of Houston-Downtown Study Abroad for this life changing opportunity.”

-Aaron Torres, CST, Sweden

“While studying abroad, I quickly made new friends who took me around the city and even small villages outside where I was studying. This trip created unforgettable memories and without the Study Abroad at UHD, I would never have been able to get this opportunity! Study Abroad is a resource every student should take advantage of if given the opportunity – don’t wait, take the trip!”

-Sage Muttel, CST, Poland Research Program

“I loved experiencing a different culture in Jyväskylä, Finland, especially integrating myself in their education. Not only that, but I was able to exchange the great qualities that UHD has and make long-lasting relationships. I am excited to go back in the near future!”

-Mariana Grijalva, COB, Finland Exchange