

Broaden Your Study Abroad Experience

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Amusement Editor

For Amusement

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Last Thursday, Sept. 2, Miami University held its Study Abroad Fair, a four-hour open house showcasing the university's myriad Study Abroad opportunities.

Hosted by The Office of International Education, the Study Abroad Fair is an effort to educate students about escaping the Oxford Bubble and actually doing something with their lives, making them less useless and boring.

While students can choose programs ranging from Ireland to Ghana to Belize, the Study Abroad selection is sorely lacking. Several countries are not represented, meaning that if someone wanted to study in, say, Palestine, they couldn't.

According to The Office of International Education's website, "Study Abroad programs are offered almost anywhere in the world that is politically and economically secure." As judged by risk assessments and travel warning visas, The Office of International Education and The Office of Lifelong Learning approve secure countries.

"If a student chooses to go to an unapproved country, he or she takes all liability," Study Abroad Advisor Richard Menard said. "They take the risk upon themselves."

Since the university only approves about 2% of the world's countries, 98% (I may or may not have made up that statistic, but it's probably really close to being true, and that's what counts) of the world is still unavailable to students interested in Study Abroad.

As a favor to the university, this reporter has taken it upon herself to prove just how many Study Abroad opportunities are being missed because a country isn't "politically and economically secure."

North Korea

Don't let the mine fields and travel visa warnings stop you from experiencing this oppressive yet beautiful country. This Study Abroad program is ideal for students that enjoy being brainwashed and reduced to mindless clones with no opinions or thoughts of their own (perfect for Miami girls!). At the same point in time, this is a great firsthand learning experience for students interested in becoming a sadistic and tyrannical dictator (again, perfect for Miami girls!). This program is not recommended for students who want to stay in contact with their family or for students who are Jimmy Carter.

Greenland

Ever wanted to get away from all those annoying classmates of yours? Let's be honest: this campus of 15,000 students has 14,999 students too many. Study Abroad in Greenland and you won't have to deal with crowded dining halls—in fact, you won't have dining halls at all! This Viking-intensive program allows you to hunt your own woolly mammoths and gather your own berries. You'll be pillaging villages and sleeping with eskimos' daughters in no time thanks to classes like How To Be A Barbarian, Slaughtering Your Way To Success and, most importantly, Viking Helmet Safety. So hop in that dragon boat and get ready for the loneliest, hairiest, Thor-iest semester of your life!

I know what you're thinking: Amish Country isn't a country ... Well, guess what? YOU'RE NOT A COUNTRY. And, by the way, 50% of this land's name is country, so, yeah ... It's a freaking country. Suck on that, Study Abroad Advisor Richard Menard.

This beautiful country is a perfect destination for those who love making furniture and wearing bonnets, because, apart from churning butter, that is all this Study Abroad program offers. Since the only textbook required is the Bible, you can save your hard-earned money to buy a new bucket for those early morning cow-milking runs. Please note, students are required to grow a beard before beginning the program.

Colombia

Viva Colombia!!! Arrrrriba!!! Give three ole's and a Feliz Navidad for this South American adventure. The focus of Colombia's Study Abroad curriculum is the manufacturing and distribution of cocaine. Students learn how to be a successful drug dealer, drug addict or family member affected by a drug addiction. The goal of this program is for students to form their own drug cartel and begin the lifelong journey of cocaine frivolity. Courses in arms dealing are also offered for the overachievers who really want to shine. Prerequisite classes include Cocaine-onomics and How To Not Get Shot.

Slovenia

Travel to this little-known (unknown, really. Who has ever heard of Slovenia?) European country to discover absolutely nothing. The vowel-challenged capital city of Ljubljana is about as exciting as it gets, and to give you an idea how exciting it is, Ljubljana's original name meant "a standing water causing floods."

So ... yeah. Standing water. Floods. No vowels. That's Slovenia. So go there. Take classes about ... I don't know, stuff.



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