

# International Programs Office

---

Monthly Newsletter | May 9, 2022

---



---

## This Issue:

---

**Study Abroad Fair /  
Pre-Departure Orientation**

Page 02

**Bon Voyage to Students  
Studying Abroad!**

Page 03

**Teaching in China /  
Human Rights Course**

Page 04

**Study Abroad Experience  
from Lucy Harwood**

Page 05

**Bon Voyage to  
International Students /  
Contact**

Page 06

---

---

# Fall Study Abroad Fair: Save the Date!



## Pre-Departure Orientation

SUNY Cortland students are taking finals this week and thinking about what they will be doing for the summer or after graduation. For some students, these thoughts of “What’s next?” have already been answered: they will be studying abroad!

Students met with advisors from the International Programs Office on Saturday, April 23, in the Sperry Center to begin preparations for going abroad. This summer, SUNY Cortland will be sending 25 Cortland students abroad and 26 students on domestic programs in Hawaii and Washington, DC. Thirteen students from other SUNY and non-SUNY campuses will be joining them. For the Fall 2022 semester, 18 Cortland students and 10 other SUNY and non-SUNY students will be going abroad. This is a significant increase from the eight Cortland and three non-Cortland students studying abroad this spring, a good sign as travelling becomes more normalized after a near two-year pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Topics covered at the Pre-Departure Orientation included health and safety, COVID-19 protocols, health insurance, packing, accessing money abroad, communicating with friends abroad and family back home, scholarships, and how to use a study abroad experience after returning to the U.S. to maximize personal and career opportunities.

When classes resume this fall, some of these students will have recently returned from abroad and will be ready to share their experiences. Be on the lookout for them in your classes and around campus. Once you study abroad, it is impossible to stop talking about the experience. Listen closely to what they say: you might be the next student to find yourself studying abroad!



---

# Students Prepare for Summer and Fall Sojourns in 10 Countries and Hawaii

Study abroad is ramping up as about 65 students prepare to venture to Australia, Costa Rica, Egypt, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom, this summer and fall. Some students will study at partner universities, while others will join faculty-led courses, including *Medieval England: There and Back Again* with Drs. Laura Gathagan (History), Andrea Harbin (English), and Geoff Bender (English); and *Wellness in Italy* (Florence) with Dr. Donna Videto (Health) through SUNY Oswego. Many of these students will receive substantial scholarships, thanks to the generosity of alumni and other friends of SUNY Cortland who provide funding to support global learning opportunities.

In addition, 24 students will travel to Hawaii with Dr. Ken Cohen (Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies) in our inaugural domestic study away program. The group will be collaborating with our partner, GIVE, and local Hawaiian organizations to explore sustainability issues and opportunities related to eco-tourism.

We wish these sojourners safe, pleasant, and transformative travels, and we welcome back our 11 students returning from their spring programs in Egypt, Spain, and Italy!



---

## Faculty teach in China 2022/2023

Qufu Normal University is seeking faculty to teach temporarily in their English, Mathematics, Philosophy and Political Science Departments at their Qufu and Rizhao campuses. For more details, please see the following [information sheet](#).

### Dr. Mecke Nagel Leads Human Rights Course with Cortland and Fulda University Students

This January and February, Dr. Mecke Nagel, Philosophy Department, collaborated with SUNY Cortland's partner, Fulda University of Applied Sciences, to teach a virtual course entitled *Black Political Thought*, through a grant sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service, DAAD. Two Cortland students, Padma Mahabir, a musical theater major with a minor in social philosophy, and John Bondi, a social philosophy major, joined the program, along with Fulda student peers from Germany, Armenia, Russia, and Greece.

The course provided the students with the opportunity to share perspectives and learn from each other as they explored topics such as the political disenfranchisement of BIPOC individuals in different global contexts. Dr. Victoria Showunmi, an associate professor at University College London and a *Wagadu* editor, was a guest lecturer. Dr. Nagel also taught *Human Rights and Diversity Leadership* through Fulda in Fall 2021, and Dr. Ute Ritz-Deutch (History) taught *Human Rights Advocacy and Activism* through the same DAAD grant.



---

# Student Study Abroad Experience from Lucy Harwood

**Anglia Ruskin University - Spring 2020**

**Medieval England: There and Back Again - Summer 2022**

"When I studied abroad for the first time in England, I was a sophomore and had never traveled before. I was nervous, excited, and unsure of what to expect. Unfortunately, I was abroad in the Spring of 2020, right when COVID-19 started. My trip was cut short by about two months, and I had to finish my semester online back home. I still had an amazing time abroad despite coming home early, but I was left feeling somewhat unfulfilled. I attempted to study abroad nearly every semester after that, but due to the pandemic, I was unable to. Before I knew it, it was my senior year, and the hope of studying abroad again was beginning to fade. At the beginning of the fall semester, I heard about the Medieval England: There and Back Again trip. This sounded like the perfect option for me. I could go back to England during my final year and, in some way, make up for the second half of my semester that I didn't get to finish. The trip was moved from January to May due to COVID, and since I would have graduated at that point, I decided to use the credits from the trip as graduate credit.



When I went abroad the first time, I was going for a full semester. I had no idea what it was going to be like, and I didn't know how I was going to adjust to living there. However, once I got there, I felt very at home. My parents are from England, and I grew up in a very British household, so being in England felt like I was connecting with another part of my identity. I chose England because I have always felt a strong affinity with the U.K, and after spending a few months there, I was eager to visit again. My first time abroad was very overwhelming, filled with so many new experiences, and it was a time of great personal growth. I made some incredible friends, saw some amazing places, and learned a lot about myself. This time around, it feels much more relaxed, and since I have traveled there before, I feel capable and confident. One of the benefits of studying abroad is that it gives you new experiences and shows you just how capable you are.

I had hoped that I would get to go abroad one more time in college, and being able to go on this trip despite graduating this semester is something that I am very grateful for. The trip is just a few days after graduation, so in a way, it feels like the perfect way to wrap up my college experience. Being sent home early and not being able to go abroad again for so many semesters after that made me feel very defeated and hopeless. I loved my time in England, and it was important to me to go again, but it felt impossible for so long due to the pandemic. Studying abroad after graduation was a possibility that I had never even considered. There are so many options for studying abroad, even in your senior year. Although this will be my second time going to England, it will be a very different experience from my first time abroad. I will see new places and travel with a new group of people. I think traveling is always a valuable and irreplaceable experience, whether you're there for a few months or just a few days."



---

# Bon Voyage to International Students

In just a few days many of SUNY Cortland's international students will wish the campus a fond farewell. Like their domestic peers, several matriculated international students will be graduating. In addition, the exchange and visiting students will be departing Cortland, NY, and returning to their home campuses.

These students had the opportunity to participate in a bounty of immersive American experiences. In addition to the academic culture, our international students tested themselves in American athletics. Some sought new challenges in intramural and club sports, while international league athletes brought their style of play to our Division III sports.

While studying at SUNY Cortland, our international students explored the greater Central New York area and took advantage of the travel break opportunities to visit various locations in the U.S. Most significantly, they shared their own cultural backgrounds, perspectives, and customs with the domestic SUNY Cortland family. This deeply enriched the experiences for the peers, faculty and staff who shared some time with them.

When providing feedback on their experiences, a common refrain was that SUNY Cortland is a caring place that emphasizes incredible student support services, as well as faculty who are willing to go the extra mile to help students.

The SUNY Cortland International Programs Office would like to congratulate our graduating students who will be completing their degree this May: Melissa Alvisi (Italy), Shane Beaulieu (Canada), Ardesian Binjakaj (Albania), Farida (Rose) Mostafa (Egypt) and Soojean Ha (South Korea), and also students who completed their studies in December 2021: Nethra Bhupathi (India) and Ezechukwu Nwemeh (Nigeria).

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer and best of luck in all of their future endeavors!

---

## Contact Us!

### International Programs Office

Old Main, Room 219

P.O. Box 2000

Cortland, NY 13045

Phone: +1-607-753-2209

Fax: +1-607-753-5989

[studyabroad@cortland.edu](mailto:studyabroad@cortland.edu)

[cortland.edu/international](http://cortland.edu/international)

Contact us to schedule an appointment with an advisor or to learn more. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Office Hours

### Monday - Friday

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Old Main, Room 219

## Follow Us!



@cortlandstudyabroad



@suncortlandinternational



SUNY Cortland Study Abroad



SUNY Cortland International Students



@cortlandstudyab