

International Programs Office

Bi-Weekly Newsletter | January 31, 2022



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SUNY Cortland students are studying abroad right now!



In February and March 2020, SUNY Cortland students were recalled to the U.S. from their study abroad locations due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a time of anxiety and confusion, and the dreams of studying abroad were cut short for a large number of students. On January 22, 2022, six SUNY Cortland students returned abroad for the first time in nearly two years to two partner universities: American University of Cairo in Egypt and the University of Salamanca in Spain. These two locations were approved as part of the study abroad reopening plan, with the hope that more programs will be able to reopen for summer and fall 2022. Some other-SUNY programs have also been approved, and two Cortland students will soon be departing to study in Florence, Italy through Stony Brook University, bringing the total to eight SUNY Cortland students studying abroad this semester. Three students from other universities are also participating on our programs.

The SUNY Cortland students who are studying abroad will be featured multiple times this semester as we follow along with their experiences in Egypt, Spain and Italy. Kylea Skinner, a junior double major in Spanish and Early Childhood Education, spoke about what it is like for her to be immersed in a Spanish-speaking country. "I have some of the least Spanish-speaking capabilities," Kylea said. "It's been very hard because my [host] family only speaks Spanish so to communicate is very difficult. I understand most of my classes which surprises me. I understand more than I can speak as long as they talk slow." Keeping a positive attitude, Kylea says that "I've learned so much in just a day. We were all walking through the city to get a feel for the layout. The Plaza Mayor in the center of Salamanca is very beautiful!"

Maria Keeney, a senior Adolescence Spanish major, talked about getting mentally ready for her semester abroad during a time of uncertainty. "Most of the time leading up (to the trip) I refrained from being excited because I had no idea what was (going to) happen. The feeling didn't really sink in until my host mother showed me my room! It was so surreal."

Since she has arrived in Salamanca, Maria has been enjoying the different atmosphere. "I love the more laid-back environment and find it easier to adjust to. I am so glad I was able to be here after so much time thinking this trip would be cancelled. This is already better than I could have imagined and I am so glad I have been given this opportunity to learn more about the world and practice my Spanish!"

Best of luck to our students abroad, and we look forward to sending many more to follow in their footsteps! If you are interested in studying abroad this summer or fall, please stop by the International Programs Office in Old Main, Room 219 or email studyabroad@cortland.edu.



Welcome Celebration

The International Programs Office started the semester off with an International Welcome Celebration. Both new and returning international students attended the event, along with faculty, staff, and students interested in studying abroad. Participants enjoyed snacks prepared by CAS catering and completed a map activity indicating where they were from and where they want to travel to next. This laid-back event was a wonderful way to cap off the first week of the semester with good conversation and good company. The event was sponsored in part by a CAS grant. Thank you to all who attended!



International Student Orientation

SUNY Cortland welcomed 19 new international students to campus on Jan. 19, 2022. Many of them, coming from various parts of the world, were excited to experience a snowfall for the first time. The students participated in a four-day international student orientation in order to acclimate them to life at SUNY Cortland. During the orientation program, students had the opportunity to build their class schedules, meet with faculty, participate in campus tours and learn about student support services and resources that are available to them.



Five of the exchange students come from the University College Cork and are currently enjoying their internship through the NY State Assembly program in Albany. The other 14 students have started their classes on Monday and are adjusting to the new academic structure (as well as the weather.) Currently there are 20 countries represented on our campus.

The International Programs Office would like to give a special thank you to everyone who made our international student orientation such a success! Many thanks are also due to, Kayla DeCoste, Senior International Program Coordinator and our three Orientation Leaders, Melissa Alvisi, Aaron Bazicki, and Diya Digvijay Singh. Thank you for all of your help with arrivals and assisting new students integrate to the SUNY Cortland campus community!



Celebrate SUNY Abroad Information

The "Celebrate SUNY Abroad" event is a series of SUNY-wide information sessions, organized by region and topic, to allow SUNY students to learn more about their study abroad options for summer 2022, fall 2022, and academic year 2022-23. Did you know that as a SUNY student you can participate on any SUNY school's study abroad programming? "Celebrate SUNY Abroad" is a three-day virtual event taking place February 8-10, 2022, to connect interested SUNY students to coordinators for conversation and questions. Visit the [Celebrate SUNY Abroad Website](#) for more information or to sign up for a session!



Medieval England



The application deadline for the *Medieval England: There and Back Again* study abroad program has been extended to February 17th! Experience the medieval period first-hand by visiting Manchester, York, Cambridge, London, and Canterbury this summer! This course will engage in the defining moments in medieval English history. Discover how historians, writers and thinkers in the 18th and 19th century translated, adjusted and massaged these events over time. Participants will earn three credits of ENG or HIS 436, and tour sites such as the walled medieval city of York, the Tower of London, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, Westminster Abbey, Dover Castle, and the city of Canterbury. Open to undergraduate and graduate students! Study abroad scholarships available.

Study Abroad 101

Are you interested in studying abroad but don't know where to start? Find out how to search for programs, courses to take abroad, understand program costs and more! Study Abroad 101 takes place every Wednesday at 3pm. You only need to attend one session to get started on your study abroad journey!

- Old Main, Room 220 (Colloquium) on 1/26, 2/9, 2/23, 3/9, 3/23, 4/6, 4/20, and 5/4.
- Corey Union, Room 209 on 2/2.
- Virtually in the IPO Remote Advising Room on 2/16, 3/2, 3/30, 4/13, and 4/27.

Visit our [webpage](#) for more information.



Fall / Summer Programs

With the exciting relaunch of our study abroad programs with the University of Salamanca and the American University in Cairo, as well as programs run by other SUNY campuses, we are expecting to be able to offer students an expanded number of international experiences in Summer and Fall 2022, pending SUNY approval. Our applications for Summer and Fall are open, and students are invited to apply, with the continued caveat that status of all programs is pending. We encourage students interested in studying abroad, whether in the summer, fall, or beyond, to visit our [online program catalog](#), attend one of our [Study Abroad 101](#) sessions, visit our [COVID-19 Information](#) page, or contact our office to learn about program options and status.



Ute Ritz-Deutch (History) presents at St. Aloysius webinar on reproductive choice of women

In December 2021, Dr. Ute Ritz-Deutch continued her collaboration with our institutional partner, St. Aloysius College (SAC) in Mangalore, India, through her participation as a speaker in a seven-hour virtual conference on “Reproductive Choice of Women: A Fundamental Right.” The event included presentations by four speakers, including Dr. Ritz-Deutch, and a student panel, with 150 people participating. SAC’s Department of Political Science organized the webinar under the sponsorship of India’s National Commission of Women.



Since Drs. Girish Bhat and Sharon Steadman established SUNY Cortland’s partnership with SAC in 2014, nearly 40 SUNY students have studied there, with many opting to do internships in local agencies. Further strengthening our exchange partnership, several Cortland faculty, including Dr. Ritz-Deutch, have collaborated with SAC colleagues, and two SAC faculty have been visiting professors on the Cortland campus.



Contact Us!

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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

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