

Main Impact / Outcomes of My Study Abroad Experience

Prior to starting my experience abroad, I set goals related to personal growth and career advancement such as improving my skillset, adjusting and solidifying my values and beliefs, and gaining international exposure to become a more global minded thinker. I was able to meet all the goals despite the shortened time due to the pandemic.

Course-related trips was a major component of my abroad program. Since each of the course-related trips lasted for about a week, I had to balance my time wisely to ensure I did not fall behind on my work, but also had enough time for leisure. By planning logically and thinking critically, I was able to effectively plan and organize my time in a new environment. Encountering cultural differences and interacting with German professors, faculty, and students resulted in self-reflection and a change in my beliefs. These experiences improved my cultural sensitivity and global communication skills.

After graduating from Oxy next year, I would like to obtain a master's degree in public policy or international affairs with a concentration in management, international trade, or economic development. The courses I took and the course-related trips allowed me to learn more about European Union (EU) policy making, and policy in general. In my EU studies seminar, I learned about the political and economic processes of different EU countries and the complexities of the policy making process. I also visited several EU institutions such as the European Central Bank (pictured below), the European Parliament, and the European Council. My experience abroad has strengthened my desire to pursue a career in public policy and international affairs.

Gilman Scholarship

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program is a nationally competitive scholarship that is congressionally funded and sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State that enables students of limited financial means to study abroad, thereby gaining skills critical to our national security and economic competitiveness.

The Gilman Scholarship provided me with monetary support to study abroad which in turn, allowed me to achieve my study abroad goals. Scholarship funds must be used for abroad related expenses such as tuition, room and board, books, local transportation, insurance, international airfare, passport, and visa fees. Being a Gilman scholar allowed me to make the most of my experience abroad, which included the course-related trips to different cities and institutions in the EU, without worrying about the financial aspect.

Study Abroad Photos



Seeparkturm
(Freiburg, Germany)



Royal Palace of Brussels
(Brussels, Belgium)



European Central Bank
(Frankfurt, Germany)