

Admissions | April 2013



## Stepping Outside the Box

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Life changing experiences and the greatest adventures often come from deciding to “step outside the box.” Madonna University understands that the college years are perfect for encountering new people and situations which is why the school has been expanding its Center for Study Abroad Office. This is providing a chance for more students to “step outside the box” by studying around the world.

“My goal is to motivate more students to travel abroad,” said Dr. Cathleen Andonian, the Director for Madonna’s

Center for Study Abroad. “I hope to facilitate that goal by finding more reasonably priced and interesting programs for our students to participate in!”

Since assuming the position of director about a year ago, Dr. Andonian has been accomplishing this goal. The Office has grown exponentially. Two years ago there were only sixteen students interested in studying abroad. This year the Office is working with a total of eighty-seven students.

Dr. Andonian said that the rise in the number of students was due both to an increase in study abroad opportunities and an increase in student awareness of the trips offered.

Madonna has also been working to make studying in another country more affordable with its new international tuition rate. The international tuition rate is a third of the price per credit hour that a student would pay for a traditional class. This enables students to more easily cover the costs of airfare, lodging, and food making a study abroad financially attainable.

The Center for Study Abroad also offers a \$150 scholarship for students to assist with trip costs. But as Dr. Andonian said the “real key” to funding your study abroad is the international tuition rate and financial aid.

An exciting group of trips is available for the upcoming 2014 and 2015 semesters.

The Abby Program in Pontlevoy, France will be a three to four week program. Students will spend the mornings in class and the afternoons touring the many historic castles in the surrounding area. This trip will also include four days in Paris.

The Silk Road trip is planned for June of 2014. This program will last two weeks and students will be introduced to Beijing, Houhai, Xian, and Dunhuang in China.

Other trips for the 2014 and 2015 calendars include a spring break in Costa Rica, a pilgrimage to Lourdes and trips to Ireland, Germany, Poland, Hungary, Italy, Turkey, and tentatively to Spain and Morocco.

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Students also have the opportunity to do an independent study abroad. Currently, the office is working with two different students planning independent trips to Iceland and Spain.

Those who have studied abroad have found the experience to be more than worth it. "It was definitely the experience of a lifetime," said Allison Follbaum, a senior majoring in Journalism / Public Relations who studied for a semester in Austria.

Student Rebekah Phillips said, "My experience was amazing. I got to experience Belfast not as a tourist but as a real student, since I was there for an extended period of time. I learned so much! I would definitely recommend studying abroad to other students."

Dr. Andonian advises interested students to contact her secretary Debbie Duvall at [dduvall@madonna.edu](mailto:dduvall@madonna.edu) for the latest study abroad news. "Their first step would be to come to our office and talk to us and get on our mailing list...that way they'll get all the announcements."

Dr. Andonian wants students to keep in mind that they cannot sign up for trips at the last minute. Students are already booking for the 2014 trips. "Start thinking about it now," said Dr. Andonian. "Start saving some money."