

International business research experience

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International Business Research Experience

My international experience in France was phenomenal, for the fact that I had the pleasure to discover France's culture, learn the language and experience the famous gastronomy. Experiencing France's famed aspects was incredible, but what defined my exchange, in both a good and bad way, was the presence of terrorism within the country. It certainly distilled a constant level of fear during my time, which was stressful; however, it also presented me with the great opportunity to explore and gain a better perspective about the issues surrounding immigration, politics and terrorism to better understand their cause and impacts within France.

Reilly Baldwin

Going on exchange is an excellent opportunity to not only study in a new environment and experience cultures, but also to broaden your perspective about business and see things differently. Conducting international research about Atomic empowered me to apply business concepts I learned at Gustavson and while on exchange to real challenges faced in the ski industry and other industries in Austria, Canada and globally. This was a wonderful opportunity to dive deeper and further my understanding of business in Austria while examining solutions and responses for a relevant issue going forward.

Taylor Cain

After having lived abroad in Europe, as well as in South America, I wanted my Gustavson Exchange experience to be different from anything I had exposed myself to before. Hong Kong provided me the opportunity to explore yet another way of thinking and of life, this time within the context of my business degree and my passion for international affairs. Being able to immerse myself into the business environment through my research as well as into the day-to-day culture opened my eyes to how culture and our environments impact the way in which corporations conduct business. My biggest take-away was learning and applying this knowledge about the socio-cultural and political environments that surrounds societies and the way in which corporations are able to succeed in these differing environments.

Hayley Fairbanks

Anyone who knows me knows that I hate being given a detailed project topic and asked to follow strict criteria. Not only do I hate it, I am bad at it. So when I heard that there was a course where you could write a paper on exchange about any business topic you wanted, I was excited to put my energy into something with endless possibilities. Writing this paper involved two things that I am pretty good at: writing with little direction given, and hitting the pavement, annoying unsuspecting victims. Tilburg was a great experience and I will always remember the hospitality of Smartwares Group.

Will Goldbeck

My exchange experience coupled with the COM 470 Research Paper provided me with an incredible opportunity to build on and expand my international experience. Working on my COM 470 paper allowed me to develop and build a stronger insight into Hong Kong, and more specifically, China through an academic lens of creative license and independent research that I otherwise would not have experienced. The independent research gave me the opportunity to strongly improve and develop my research and writing skills in a setting that was both fascinating and challenging. Overall, the course paired with the international experience was an interesting and rewarding experience.

Lukas Larsson

When I left for exchange, my intention was to avoid writing the COM 470 research paper. However, for various reasons I ended up writing it, and cannot emphasize enough how glad I am that I did. Was it challenging? Absolutely. Frustrating at times? Undoubtedly. But despite this, the good far outweighed the bad. I spoke with some incredible people, became infinitely more comfortable doing research, and learned so much about the Czech Republic that I otherwise would not have. Overall, I truly feel that writing the COM 470 research paper gave me a more complete exchange experience.

Chris McEachran-Law

I was lucky enough to go on exchange to NOVA School of Business and Economics in Lisbon, Portugal. The connections and experiences that I had on exchange were incredible and I know that I will always have fond memories of those four months. The depth of knowledge that I gained by doing international research enhanced my experience because I was able to see, and think critically about, the business phenomenon that I was researching. I can honestly say that I will never be able to open a bottle of wine without thinking about my research on corks and my exchange experience as a whole!

Natalie McIver

Having the opportunity to research siestas was an engaging experience, complemented by the fact that I was living in Spain at the time. I found that though many of us know the general concept of siestas, we do not truly understand the cultural background of them, and how they are now effecting the way global business is conducted. This research paper was an excellent avenue for me to gain a better understanding of the country I was living in, while combining and utilizing my past education.

Jenna Sargent

My international exchange experience provided many unique opportunities to engage with different cultures and put my international studies to use. One of my greatest takeaways from living and studying in Austria and travelling to other countries was learning how to communicate with and adapt to different cultures on a regular basis. While on exchange I got the opportunity to research the effects of conscription on educational and career advancement among youth; a topic that was very relevant in my exchange country of Austria, being one of the last European countries with conscription. Being immersed in these different cultures allowed me to conduct quality primary research that would have been impossible in Canada. This experience was very valuable and I would definitely recommend international study and research to others!

Charlene Smith

Being able to research an incredible economic phenomenon while in Germany was a great compliment to my exchange. It truly deepened my understanding of some of the success factors of this country. Writing this paper helped answer questions that I had regarding the make-up of the German economy. Not only that, but it allowed me to engage and learn about cultural differences that affect business decision making - which is great for the IB specialization. Curiosity drove me to some leaders in this particular field of research who provided incredible insight when I contacted them. I would highly recommend engaging in this process as it provided the opportunity for great learning.

Patrick Webb