

International business research experience

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2018

Bachelor of Commerce Best Business Research Papers

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Original citation:

Backhouse, T., Chen, A., Chitroda, S., Henson, M., Poirier, Z., Scully, E., Stewart, R., & White, E. (2018). International business research experience. *Bachelor of Commerce Best Business Research Papers*, 11, 5–6.

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International Business Research Experience

My international experience in Germany was phenomenal. Having the opportunity to discover Germany's culture, learn the language, and explore many of its European neighbours provided me with a unique aptitude for culture and travel. One of the highlights of my exchange semester was being able to bring the skills and concepts learned at Gustavson Business School to a real-life context while completing research on the modern day economic consequences of post-war Germany. Doing this research allowed me to delve deep into the German business environment and the day-to-day culture of my exchange city. In the end, this project reviewed to me how politics, history, and having a nation torn apart, can have long lasting effects on the economic state of a unified and thriving nation. Overall, I believe this project made my exchange a more well-rounded and immersive experience.

Taylor Backhouse

Prior to my exchange abroad, I had never left North America. Being at the center of the thriving industrial machine that is southwestern Germany was an extremely enriching experience, and it has been invaluable in my personal and professional development. It has allowed me to learn more about international politics, business, and people in general than I thought possible. I'm lucky to have been able to produce a research paper on such an interesting and culturally unique phenomenon, with the co-operation of the University of Mannheim and Fuchs Petrolub. It altered my preconceived notions of what successful business models could be, and I hope that it has genuinely intrigued you as intensely as it did me.

Amy Chen

My international experience in Hong Kong was incredibly transformative and eye-opening; I got the opportunity to immerse myself in a culture unlike anything I have ever been exposed to before, and this time within the context of my business degree. My research paper provided me with an academic lens through which to view the lives of those exploited within Hong Kong's labor force and the underlying forces that further stimulate this problem on a global scale. This subsequently framed the rest of my travels around South East Asia, and I am forever grateful to have had the opportunity to complement my education in such a way and delve into such a complex issue.

Shivani Chitroda

While on exchange at the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland, I was given the opportunity to study under some of the foremost academics in Europe. Among those was a major inspiration for my research—Nicolas Evans, FIFA Group Leader. While this experience was invaluable, it is important that I do not understate the influence of cultural learning in addition to my academic experiences. Many of my European travels were football focused, seeing football matches from Barcelona to Manchester with many in-between. These experiences, in tandem with my passion for football, drove me to write a paper that represented my time in Europe.

Marshall Henson



My research experience while on exchange was an excellent complement to the BCom program and my overall experience studying abroad in Poland. In terms of helping my development in other areas of my degree, preparing a paper on Polish energy infrastructure was a perfect extension of learning in my European Union Economics course that I took on exchange, and was an interesting application of market concepts I learned about in my co-op in Canadian energy infrastructure. Regarding my overall exchange experience, preparing a research paper helped me develop relationships with Polish professors and was a great way to integrate into the academic community at my host university.

Zack Poirier

Although many found it challenging to find motivation in their research while on international exchange, I found it to be a worthy addition that encouraged my intellectual engagement in the overall experience. Researching renewable energy, an ever emerging and significant sector of business, heightened my understanding of Germany's significant leadership in the renewable energy economy; in particular, the process brought light to the existence of clearly untapped business opportunities and benefits that exist for Canada when placed in relation to Germany's progress. The research integrated well with my experience- broadening my understanding of complex business decisions cross-culturally, and building on what the Gustavson School of Business lays solid foundations for in core year. I highly recommend fully engaging in this opportunity, as it will encourage a well-rounded international exchange experience, and present exceptional opportunities for learning and network expansion.

Emma Scully

One of the reasons I chose to attend the Gustavson School of Business is the amazing exchange program and the various international opportunities the school provides. During my time in France I had the opportunity to experience the culture and improve upon my French. I observed how important quality wine is in the French culture and how often it is consumed. While writing my research paper I had the chance to research how climate change is affecting the production of quality wine, impacting the French economy and the production worldwide. Writing the research paper was a great way to immerse myself in the French culture while on exchange.

Richelle Stewart

I was given the opportunity to study in France for my semester abroad, and after finding out I would be in the Champagne region you can only imagine my excitement. Thus, when given the freedom to choose my research topic it seemed fitting to choose the champagne production industry. After visiting the first couple champagne houses, exploring the underground caves, and learning the history I was confident in my decision to research the industry further. I highly recommend visiting the champagne caves and learning the history that remains evident in French culture today. Overall, this research paper complemented my time on exchange and I hope to visit again one day.

Eryn White

