

International business research experience

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International Business Research Experience

My exchange term at Waseda University, Japan really gave me a wakeup call for my future career goals. I have always wanted to be part of an organization or corporation that serves great social purposes for the community. Nevertheless, it wasn't until my exchange term that I realized what topic I would like to focus on: the relationship between mental health and the workplace environment. It was striking to know that it is a norm to witness suicide incidences at the MRT platform and unfair labor treatment can happen to your close friend. The research ignited my passion for solving this issue and led me to my next step: studying at Waseda University's Graduate School for further research on this topic.

Hanna Chen

Throughout my exchange experience, Singapore continued to surprise me. The cultural melting pot of Singapore made for a great learning experience. The country is rich in diversity but united in vision which was an interesting set of circumstances. The military conscription in Singapore especially surprised me because of the positive attitude the citizens had toward it. This attitude was the motivator for me to write about military conscription and its effects in Singaporean culture. My overall exchange experience was one for the books.

Graeme Jackson

Having the opportunity to study abroad in Bangkok, Thailand while writing my COM 470 paper allowed me to explore the culture on a deeper level. One of my greatest takeaways from living and studying in Thailand and traveling to other countries was learning how to communicate with and adapt to different cultures in day to day life. These experiences were both emotionally powerful and intellectually stimulating. I am so thankful for the opportunity to travel and research my own interests. This research paper was the perfect opportunity for me to gain a deeper understanding of Thailand, while employing my past education at the University of Victoria.

Sloane Jeffrey

As soon as I got my form to request which exchange countries I was interested in, Thailand was immediately my number one spot. I knew it would be a huge cultural change, with uncomfortable situations - and that did not disappoint - in the best ways. Being in Bangkok was an eye-opener. The customs, food, personalities, and way of life is very different than Victoria and Canada, but these differences became my favourite part of being there. Although, it was difficult to see how massive the disparity is between rich and poor, with a barely-existent middle class. This was exasperating in every city, with many sex workers a part of this low-income group. Having witnessed the sex industry to be a huge part of Thai tourism, it was clear that many sex workers are unfairly treated and taken advantage of, especially because of its illegal nature. I thought it was an important topic to bring to light, even though it can be uncomfortable, which is why I chose to do my research based upon this. Researching a dark topic like this had its difficulties, but ultimately was an incredible learning experience.

Daniella Keene

Being provided the opportunity to write a research paper while on exchange was invaluable as it allowed for a more flexible academic term. In the beginning, the thought of doing fieldwork and writing about my results terrified me. However, as I pieced away at the paper, the lessons my research provided me regarding cultural differences far outweighed my struggles. Thailand's transportation system is far different from Canada's, and the negative stigma's regarding taxis in Thailand is what drove me to pursue the topic. Through my research, I was able to connect with many kind-hearted locals to get a better understanding of why such stigmas exist.

Tony Martin

From cozy Christmas markets and Danish Gløgg to weekend trips and late nights at the library, my exchange semester in Denmark was filled with amazing memories I will never forget. When I accepted my placement at Aarhus University, I knew that I wanted to write my research paper about social economics. In particular, I wanted to explore why Denmark is consistently ranked among the happiest countries in the world. I learned that happiness is strongly tied to trust, and studied why and how it is so deeply engrained in Denmark's social fabric. I really enjoyed researching happiness in Denmark, and feel the world has much to learn from this small Scandinavian country.

Catherine Musgrave

My international exchange in France was an amazing opportunity and I will cherish the experiences and memories from that time for many years to come. I was located in the South of France and I cannot express enough how beautiful and culturally rich this region is. My research was engaging, relevant, and a fantastic complement to my studies abroad. I chose the topic of smoking in France as it was something I noticed right away to be culturally quite different from Canada, and it is a topic I find very interesting.

Sadee O'Shea

I chose to go to Morocco because I wanted to truly understand and live within the socioeconomic complexities of a developing nation. I am fascinated by the overlapping factors that simultaneously progress and hinder a nation as they strive to lift their people into the 21st century. While attending ESCA Ecole de Management in Casablanca, I was lucky enough to meet and work alongside Professor Majid EL GHAIB. He was able to give me insight to the Social Innovation ecosystem developing within Morocco and introduce me to the Moroccan youth who are attempting to sustainably and ethically advance the country. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to meet and work with the young women whom these case studies highlight.

Madison Rudolph