

## **International business research experience**

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## International Business Research Experience

*I was fortunate to spend a semester at the HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management in Germany for my international exchange program. The rich, yet often overlooked culture in the regions surrounding Berlin and Leipzig have proven to be beneficial grounds for Start-ups to flourish, and my research analyzed the phenomenal growth and persisting cultural divide since the fall of the Berlin Wall thirty years ago. The COM 470 research paper served as a means to better understand the German culture, and it presented a great opportunity to exercise the academic traits I have developed while attending school at UVic and abroad.*

**Tyler Arseneault**

*My exchange semester was an amazing experience for me as it gave me an opportunity to go and experience another country's culture first hand. I was lucky enough to spend 5 months in the amazing city of Bangkok. Thailand is a country that will forever hold a special place in my heart because of all of the amazing people that I met while I was there, and all of the mouth-watering food that I got to try. The research project gave me an opportunity to dive deep into the inner workings of the business that I probably interacted with the most while there – 7-Eleven.*

**Teegan Johnson**

*China has always felt like an unfamiliar and mysterious nation to me. Yet, China's connection to the global economy and the direct impact it has on life and business in Canada is anything but distant. It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to study at China's premier university while researching one of the biggest questions facing China as it grows its presence on the world stage. Further, by immersing myself in the Chinese culture, I have grown a fond familiarity with the nation that has strengthened and added value to my global perspective ever since.*

**Wyatt Mathews**

*Last Fall, I had the incredible opportunity of studying just outside of Paris at ESSEC Business School. I truly enjoyed learning more about the history and culture of France which motivated me to specialize my research in the way I did; I always had interests in climate change, so being able to merge the global matter with my country of study allowed me to combine my pre-existing knowledge of both. The greatest thing I took away from my experience was that adaptability in new environments is an invaluable skill to develop - I was amazed to see how unique each and every country I visited was. I learned so much about myself and will never forget this experience.*

**Jeremy Mueller**

*While on exchange at the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland, I had the opportunity to develop a whole new perspective on International business and learn a new language. The incredibly welcoming professors and classmates I met along the way left me with a wonderful impression of Swiss culture, and fond memories to last a lifetime. While travelling across the country, I was struck by how important local agriculture was in the Swiss psyche and diet. Given my longstanding interest in International trade, this inspired me to delve deeper into the Swiss agriculture system from a trade policy perspective.*

**Ari Tsetsekas**

*Prior to leaving for exchange, I had not intended to write the COM 470 research paper. Due to various reasons, I ended up writing it and I can undoubtedly say that my exchange experience was more complete and well-rounded because of it. Not only did it allow me to engage more deeply in the Czech culture and better understand the history of the country, but it helped develop my independent research skills in a way that I had not before. This was an extremely valuable experience, both on a personal and educational level, and I would highly recommend students of all backgrounds to partake in this learning opportunity.*

**Annie Washington**

*My international exchange in Spain taught me more valuable life lessons than any job or lecture ever could. I am grateful for the experiences and memories made while exploring such a unique and thriving way of life. Moving away from home and immersing yourself into a new lifestyle and language is no easy task, but shows ambition, courage, and independence. My four months spent living in Madrid and traveling Europe proved to be the opportunity of a lifetime. In my mind, Gustavson's International Exchange program is the educational component that sets the business school apart from competitors. It is my hope that my research paper acts as a window into the extraordinary Spanish culture, and explains how Spain could become the nation with the highest life expectancy in the world.*

**Christine Wensink**

*On my exchange, I had the incredible opportunity to live in one of Germany's most friendly cities, Cologne. Germany is filled with such successful businesses and industries; it was hard to choose which one I wanted to research for this paper. The countless number of DHL trucks I saw every day seemed to point me a certain way. I enjoyed every second I spent investigating this topic. It was interesting to explore how a business recognized a change in its external environment - the growth in eCommerce sales - and strived to adapt to remain competitive in today's economy. Now, looking back on my research, it seems this topic will be relevant to almost all businesses that wish to stay competitive in an economy post-2020.*

**Audrey Wright**