

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

OAKLAND
UNIVERSITY

SEPTEMBER 2016

Study abroad leads to personal, professional growth

Oakland University students have the opportunity to participate in more than 300 study abroad programs in about 50 countries, according to International Education.

Participation in study abroad can lead to personal and professional growth, according to both International Education and Career Services.

“It really broadens your experience,” said Alex Zimmerman, director of Study Abroad/International Education.

Students who study abroad tend to return with more self-confidence and a stronger idea of what they want professionally, Zimmerman said.

International Education provides resources to guide students through the preparation process. Student advisers who have already studied abroad help students decide where, when and what to study while abroad, said Cynthia Weil, assistant director of Study Abroad/International Education.

Employers also like to see that job applicants have studied abroad, said Amy Ring Cebelak, career consultant at Career Services.

“Everyone who goes comes back on top of the world,” she said.

While study abroad is most important for students who want a job where they use a second language every day, any study abroad experience shows an employer that the applicant has transferrable skills such as adaptability, appreciation for culture and an ability to communicate.

Many companies are increasing the diversity within their workplaces, working with companies in other countries and opening branches around the world. Having lived in a different culture shows employers that an applicant would be comfortable and productive in a diverse environment.

For these reasons, study abroad experiences should not be minimized. They can make up a portion of a resume, Ring Cebelak said.

The initial steps of the application and account-making processes on OU’s website are similar. Later steps may differ, as different programs require different information, but the study abroad office tries to make the process as straightforward as possible and is available to help, Zimmerman said.

There is a program for everyone, Zimmerman said. Students who are not studying a foreign language can study abroad in an English-speaking country or take classes

abroad taught in English while learning basic linguistic skills in the country’s native language. Programs also have staff who can help students.

Students can study abroad for as few as two weeks or as long as an academic year and still reap the benefits, Weil said.

“Any length of program can provide a global experience.”

Weil said that students tend to spend an average of \$1,000 a week while on a study abroad trip.

However, Zimmerman explained that some places have such a low cost of living that students end up spending less money abroad than they would taking classes at OU.

Scholarships and grants are available through the study abroad office and other offices, Zimmerman said. The office also helps students apply for national and international scholarships.

Zimmerman encourages every student to at least look into study abroad options.

“Doing something like this helps you figure out who you are,” he said.

The Oakland Post
Grace Turner, Managing Editor
September 6, 2016

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Honors College freshman class tops 400 students, impresses academically

Hundreds of newly minted Golden Grizzlies gathered in Meadow Brook Theatre Wednesday morning as Oakland University's Honors College welcomed a record number of freshmen to its ranks during the college's "Making Discoveries" freshman colloquium.

Students were grouped into small teams, each headed by an Honors College student teaching assistant.

This year's crop of Honors College freshmen – more than 400 students – is 30 percent larger than last year's incoming class. The group also boasts 160 Presidential Scholars – students who achieved at least a 3.9 GPA and an ACT score of 31 or above while in high school – a 25 percent increase over last year.

In addition, this year's class is academically diverse, featuring students from all areas of study, including pre-medicine, healthcare and nursing (30 percent); computer science and engineering (30 percent); other sciences (15 percent); business (10 percent); and arts and social sciences (15 percent).

Learn more about The Honors College at oakland.edu/hc.

OU alum to lead international municipal association

Oakland University graduate Marc A. Ott was recently named executive director of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). Ott, who earned a bachelor's in management and master's in public administration from

Oakland, is the city manager of Austin, Texas and has built a distinguished career in local government management.

"I am excited about the opportunity to serve and lead America's premier local government organization, one that is supremely dedicated to excellence in local governance around the world," Ott said in a news release. "I am proud to say that I've been a member of ICMA for over 30 years. The mission, values, and code of conduct espoused by ICMA serves its members, and the communities they serve, very well."

Prior to moving to Texas, Ott served as city administrator of Rochester Hills (1998–2002), where he had administrative and managerial oversight over all municipal operations. He also served as city manager (1993–97), deputy city manager (1991–93), and as an assistant city manager (1990–91) in Kalamazoo. He also served in leadership and support roles for the cities of Grand Rapids and Jackson (1982–90), and as a staff assistant to the Michigan Municipal League (1981–82).

Ott is also a graduate of the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and serves on the board of directors for the Alliance for Innovation. Ott received an ICMA Service Award in 2012 in honor of his 30 years of service to local government. He starts as ICMA executive director on October 31, 2016.

Based in Washington, D.C., ICMA advances professional local government worldwide. The organization's mission is to create excellence in local governance by

developing and fostering professional management to build better communities.

OU students, grads overseas competing in Amazon robotics competition

A group of current Oakland University School of Engineering and Computer Science students and alumni of the university has teamed up with local robotics firm Dataspeed, Inc., to compete for the second year in the Amazon Picking Challenge.

Oakland's Team Dataspeed/Grizzly will be competing against prestigious universities such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Duke University and others.

The Amazon Picking Challenge hosts teams from across the world who will demonstrate the capabilities of autonomous robots to perform lifting and picking operations, with the overarching purpose of beginning to build out robotic warehouse operations for the future. Even the most basic of motions require complex software development and algorithms.

Team Dataspeed/Grizzly, a joint effort between engineering firm Dataspeed and several Oakland University engineering students, placed third last year, behind TU Berlin and MIT. Team Dataspeed/Grizzly will be showcasing their mobility base, which, when combined with the Baxter robot, allows for a fully autonomous, intelligent robot.

All eight team members on Team Dataspeed/Grizzly are either current or former students of Oakland.

STATE AND NATIONAL HEADLINES

College students prefer to stay close to home, data finds

Dive Brief:

* The Chronicle of Higher Education's interactive view of freshmen enrollment trends throughout the U.S. reveal a propensity among most students to stay in state, or to remain in regional proximity to their home state.

* More than 33% of students attend college 50 miles or closer to home, and 20 colleges saw substantial increases of in-state enrollment exceeding 50%, since 1998. Most students who do go out of state are inclined to attend private institutions in neighboring states.

* States with large metropolitan areas and high concentrations of institutions drew the most out-of-state students. New York was the national leader with more than 34,000 non-residential students, followed by Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and California.

Dive Insight:

As the pressure mounts for more institutions to recruit and retain out-of-state students, colleges are faced with the balancing act of welcoming and accommodating students who wish to stay close to home, even if coming from a neighboring state. Some institutions in the Northeast have found success with tuition matching programs that attract students from neighboring states.

Given the challenges of certain states and regions with poverty, secondary education rigor and affordability, many leaders across the country will have to adjust their enrollment management strategies to meet these student needs.

Education Dive
August 17, 2016

Recent high school grads without college degrees struggle in job market

The job market is proving to be a daunting challenge for just about everyone these days.

However, employment is especially tough to come by for high school graduates who are not pursuing a college degree, according to a recent study by the Washington, D.C.-based Economic Policy Institute (EPI). Nationally, the unemployment rate for those who recently earned a high school diploma or equivalent degree (ages 17-20) and are not enrolled in additional schooling is 18 percent. For the sake of comparison, Polk's most recent overall unemployment rate was 6 percent, which trailed both the state, 4.7 percent, and national figures, 4.9 percent, in July.

The Ledger
September 4, 2016

Regents' budget idea has challenges because of state funding

The board that oversees Iowa's three public universities says its plan for a new two-year budget system will bring more predictability to tuition expenses for students and their families, but the unpredictability of available state funding could complicate that effort.

The Iowa Board of Regents, which provides support to the University of Iowa, Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa, announced recently a plan to fund the budget years that end in 2018 and 2019 with a combination of tuition increases and more state dollars. The board has typically planned one year ahead.

"By going to this new model, students and parents will know tuition rates well in advance, and the

state will know our thinking on funding for two years," said regents President Bruce Rastetter in a statement.

The nine-member board faces some challenges in delivering on its vision, in part because it's become increasingly difficult to figure out how much money the Iowa Legislature will allocate each year to higher education.

The Des Moines Register
September 4, 2016

Texas plans to increase college graduation rates by 2030

The 60x30TX plan — introduced last year by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board — aims to ensure 60 percent of those between the ages of 25 to 34 have a college certificate or degree by 2030.

The initiative plans to have 550,000 students in 2030 complete a certificate or degree program and for those who graduate from these programs to have marketable skills in the workforce. Student debt will be tackled as well with the plan aiming to hold debt at 60 percent of first-year wages.

Gov. Greg Abbott (R-TX) presented the program last November and said for Texas to keep growing, a skilled and educated workforce will be needed.

"The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's 60x30 Texas plan takes Texas to the next level," Abbott said in a statement. "Texas will be a national leader in higher education degrees. Texas will become the home for innovation and intellectual capital. This is a high expectation. People often live up to expectations whether high or low."

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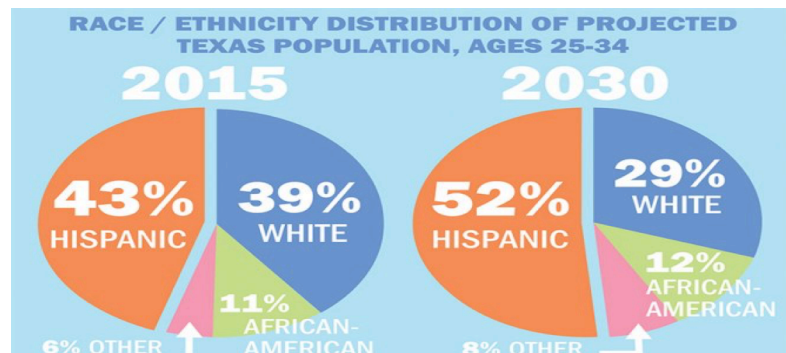
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State and National Headlines *CONTINUED*

The Daily Texan
September 8, 2016



Can Higher Education Boost Homeownership?

Conventional wisdom has long suggested that having a college degree puts people in a better position to buy homes. Well, conventional wisdom got the backing of Fannie Mae Wednesday, when the GSE released the second in a series of studies looking at higher education and housing. What Fannie Mae found was that those with at least a bachelor's degree are 17.5 percent more likely to be able to buy a home than someone without a high school diploma.

MReport
September 14, 2016