

sea | October 2017 Newsletter

Sarah's Unit Operations Lab in Germany!



Sarah atop Männlichen Mountain in Lauterbrunnen, Switzerland.

What program did you participate in and what did you study?

At VT, the chemical engineering majors have a unit operations laboratory course we have to take the summer before our final year. We can take it in Germany, Denmark, or at VT. I decided to apply for the Germany program, which is at Ruhr-Universität Bochum, in Bochum, Germany. We took the unit operations laboratory course, a basic German language course, and did a research project.

How did you learn about this program?

I learned about this program through the Chemical Engineering department.

What was your favorite part about studying abroad?

I loved that Germany is in central Europe, which allowed us to travel to many nearby countries as well as other places in Germany. Staying in cheap hostels all over the place and spending many days exploring was a blast.

SCHOLARSHIP

SEAC—SEC

Study Abroad Scholarship

Application Deadline:

October 16th, 2017

[Link to Application](#)

Eligibility: Program during Winter 2017 or Spring 2018.

Virginia Tech students enrolled in the College of Engineering.

Questions: Contact Megan Peterson (pmegan96@vt.edu).

What did you learn about your host country?

I learned that Germans tend to be more reserved, especially to strangers, but are very kind. I also learned that they live somewhat more sustainably than we do. For example, they usually use public transportation, have to bring their own grocery bags to the store, and pay a deposit on recyclables that gets returned to them if they turn in the recyclable item. Lastly, I thought it was interesting that many Germans don't feel a sense of patriotism like Americans often do, which was explained to me as being (at least in part) due to their country's role in World War II.

How did this experience affect your future plans?

It definitely inspired me to continue to travel to new places and be open to new experiences.

What was your least favorite thing about studying abroad?

I definitely missed a lot of foods that aren't found in Germany, like Mexican food, Chick-fil-A, and buffalo wings! But it was worth it because I got to try a bunch of new foods.

If you had to do the experience all over again, what would you have done differently?

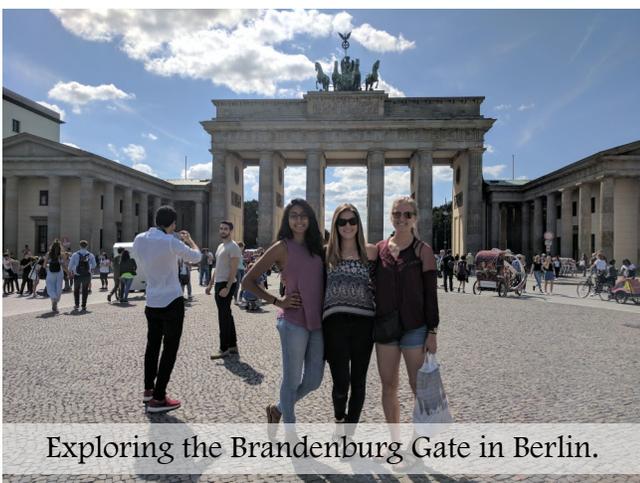
I would have definitely tried to make more friends outside my group. Luckily, we were assigned German "buddies" who we hung out with and who helped us around Germany, but it would have been cool to establish more relationships with Europeans.

Would you recommend studying abroad and do you have advice for students who are looking to study abroad?

It's definitely worth it! Many of us will never get a chance to spend a sustained amount of time outside the US again. Truly being immersed somewhere abroad - grocery shopping, cooking, studying - is a different type of experience than you can get by just taking short-term vacations. My main advice - don't over-plan! Some of our coolest experiences happened by just exploring.



A scenic view from the Berlin Cathedral.



Exploring the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin.

Passports

Student Engagement and Campus Life (SECL) in Squires Student Center now offers first time passports and renewal applications.

Be sure your passport last until 6 months after your study abroad.

Visit the [VT Passport Office](#) for applications, appointments, and office hours.





Upcoming Deadlines

Bridges, Builders & Society: CEE 3954
May 12-24, 2018

Deadline: November 1, 2017

Contact Lindy Cranwell for more information: lindycra@vt.edu

Green Engineering NZ: GEOG 3954
23 days during Winter
Contact bill Carstensen for more information: carstens@vt.edu

Looking for internships, full-time jobs, or engineering support?
CAMEO On Campus Career Fair:
February 22, 2018
Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Follow **SEAC** on Social Media:



[@SEACVirginiaTech](#)



[@EngAbroadVT](#)



[@EngAbroadVT](#)

Upcoming Scholarship Deadlines

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

Deadline: October 10, 2017

www.iie.org/en/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program

Bridging Foundation Scholarship-Japan

Deadline: October 11, 2017 (spring 2018 travel)

<https://www.aatj.org/studyabroad/japan-bridging-scholarships>

SEAC—SEC Fall Scholarship Award

Deadline: October 16th, 2017

See front page for details and application link

Freeman-Asia

Deadline: October 18, 2017

<https://www.iie.org/Programs/Freeman-ASIA>

Critical Language Scholarship Program

Deadline: November 15, 2017

<http://www.clscholarship.org/>



Follow the link, **Engineering Exchanges**,
to explore the 325 Universities in
54 countries YOU could visit!

★ ● **Find an International Organization on Campus!** 🇵🇭 🇨🇳

The **Filipino American Student Association** promotes Filipino culture on campus through bi-weekly meetings, food-related events, and their annual Culture Show. The members form this sense of a familial relationship. As many of the members would say, FASA is their family away from home. Come celebrate Heritage Month with FASA at their next general meeting, **Wednesday, October 11th Goodwin 145, 7-9PM**. Contact Raymark Galman (raymark1@vt.edu) to be added to the listserv.

Check out FASA's [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), Twitter @vtfasa, Instagram @vt_fasa, and Snapchat @vtfasahokies!



The **Chinese American Society** is a student organization that aims to introduce and promote Chinese culture to the general student body of Virginia Tech, regardless of race, ethnic background, and nationality. Their mission includes providing an opportunity for students to come together as friends who share an interest in Chinese culture, as well as a desire to meet others.

Check out CAS's [Website](#) and [Facebook](#)



The **Vietnamese Student Association** promotes the awareness and interest of Vietnamese American culture, its people, and its community as well as enhancing and furthering pluralism and diversity. They hold cultural events such as Unlimited Pho Night, Tet Celebration, and their annual culture show. They also participate in intramural sports, Relay for Life, and Big Event.

Come by **Unlimited Pho Night, October 10th, 5-9PM**, Newman Community Center. Member/Free, Non-members \$5.

Check out VSA's [Website](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) @vsahokies!



The **Japanese Cultural Association** is dedicated to promoting and spreading Japanese culture and awareness. They welcome everyone regardless of background who is interested in Japanese culture to become a part of the JCA family! From creating friendships to celebrating traditions, it their mission to showcase Japanese culture for everyone to experience.

Stop in for JCA's 3rd General Meeting: **Thursday, October 12th Torgersen 1060, 7-9PM.**



Check JCA out on [Facebook](#) and Instagram [@jca_hokies!](#)

The **Kendo Club at Virginia Tech** upholds the principles and teachings of traditional Japanese Kendo through physical training, discipline, and community. They meet three times a week and accept all members of the community, regardless of experience, at the start of fall semester. Equipment is provided.

Interested? Contact Josh Bogin (vtkendokumdo@gmail.com)



For more information visit the [Kendo Club's Website](#).

The **Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers** is dedicated to advancing Asian heritage, scientists, and engineers to achieve their potential in employment and education. The society allows members to develop professional skills, network, celebrate diversity, and contribute to the community. They hold workshops for members to develop professionally with mock interviews and resume help. Their community service events include canned food drives and participating in the Big Event. Social events are held in a friendly environment for members to make lasting friendships.

Contact Tyler Young (tyler210@vt.edu) to join SASE's listserv for mentor mentee week 10/1-10/7.



Visit SASE's [Website](#) and [Facebook!](#)

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