

NOT ALL THOSE WHO WANDER ARE LOST. - J. R. R. TOLKIEN

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM YOUR STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE ABROAD



I LEARNED MY DAUGHTER IS STRONGER, BRAVER AND MORE RESILIENT THAN I COULD HAVE IMAGINED.

THAT THERE ARE THINGS A CLASSROOM CANNOT TEACH.

I LEARNED HOW TO "LET GO" AND ALLOW MY CHILD TO TAKE ON ADULT RESPONSIBILITIES and solve his own problems without trying micromanage him. It's tough for a parent to allow her child to make the transition into adulthood. I still want him to rely on me for advice and problem solving, but I found through this experience that he was more capable than I ever imagined.

I REALIZED THE BEST WAY TO HELP PREPARE MY CHILD FOR INDEPENDENCE WAS TO ALLOW HER TO TRAVEL.

TO BE ADVENTUROUS AND TO ACCEPT THAT OUR CHILDREN ARE YOUNG ADULTS WHO WILL HAVE THE TIME OF THEIR LIVES STUDYING ABROAD.

AS A PARENT YOU LEARN TO TRUST, TO SHARE IN YOUR CHILD'S JOY, AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM WHEN THEY NEED A BIT OF SUPPORT.

What a great opportunity for a young adult who wants to learn more about the world, the people, and cultures.

I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HER AS MUCH, I AM CONFIDENT SHE CAN MAKE IT ON HER OWN!

HE IS VERY CAPABLE OF HANDLING HIMSELF IN THE WORLD. Able to live, travel, make friends anywhere. **I LEARNED THAT DISTANCE AND TIME HAVE NO BEARING ON A PARENT'S CONNECTION WITH THEIR CHILDREN.** I learned how much my child loved other countries: their people, food, beauty, and culture.

HE MADE LEAPS AND BOUNDS PERSONALLY that would have taken longer if he did not go.

AS A PARENT, IT WAS A DELIGHT TO SEE MY DAUGHTER FLOURISH; IT IS ONLY IN LETTING GO THAT OUR CHILDREN CAN BECOME WHO THEY WERE MEANT TO BE.

I WISH ALL OF MY CHILDREN HAD A CHOSEN TO STUDY ABROAD. It is something that will stay with them forever and give them the self-confidence to take on almost any challenge.

I DIDN'T WORRY AS MUCH AS I THOUGHT I WOULD BECAUSE HE WAS SO HAPPY. THE WHOLE THING WAS AND STILL IS SO AMAZING TO ME. I also traveled abroad to see him and I never in my wildest dreams thought I would do that, so I also grew as a person along with my son. My experience has opened my eyes to the world and I want to travel more. Honestly, deep down I didn't want him to go and I was afraid to go. I learned you can travel this world, with all the terror threats and natural disasters, and just be vigilant and get to see so many great places and still get home safely. I learned to be more daring and it's OK to take chances.

HOW TO LOOK AT LIFE IN A MORE MEANINGFUL WAY. Life is about experience and learning about other cultures and how others look at life. **THIS EXPERIENCE HAS CHANGED OUR OUTLOOK ON LIFE FOREVER.**

THAT MY SON IS SMART, RESOURCEFUL AND CONFIDENT. As much as I miss my little boy, I am unspeakably proud of the young man he has become. —

IT ALSO BROADENED MY PERSPECTIVE ABOUT OTHER COUNTRIES.

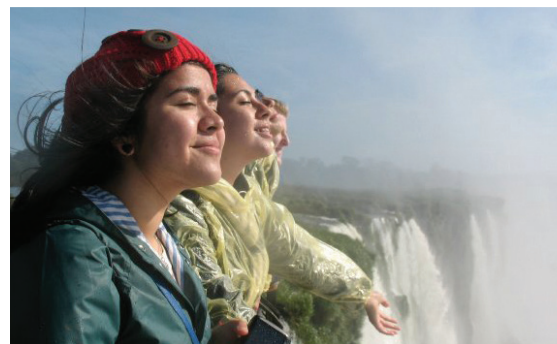


THOUGHTS FROM PARENTS & GUARDIANS OF API STUDENTS



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IT WAS LIFE CHANGING AND EYE-OPENING. I COULD TELL A DIFFERENCE WITH HIM IN OUR FIRST PHONE CALL. IT WAS HUMBLING AND ALSO EMPOWERING.

HOW DID THE STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IMPACT YOUR STUDENT'S PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT? WHAT DID THEY LEARN



SHE BECAME MORE RESOURCEFUL.

I BELIEVE THE EXPERIENCE OPENED [MY SON'S] EYES TO POSSIBILITIES HE HADN'T EVEN BEGUN TO DREAM OF FOR HIS LIFE. He made new friends, which is sometimes difficult for him, and visited countries traveling alone.

SHE LEARNED TO MAKE DECISIONS ON HER OWN. She was able to deal with adversity. She learned to fit in and embrace a different culture.

My daughter was already quite independent and able to meet challenges, but **STUDYING ABROAD GAVE HER EVEN MORE CONFIDENCE IN HER ABILITY TO NEGOTIATE THE DAY TO DAY REALITIES OF ADULT LIFE.**

HER SOCIAL INTERACTIONS WITH PEERS BECAME MORE MATURE after being exposed to other cultures and ways of life.

CERTAINLY A BREADTH OF COMPASSION AND UNDERSTANDING OF OTHERS.

SHE SAYS IT WAS THE BEST EXPERIENCE OF HER LIFE. SHE SAYS THE TIMES SHE WAS HOMESICK OR NERVOUS BECAUSE OF UNFAMILIAR SITUATIONS TAUGHT HER THE MOST, BECAUSE SHE REALIZED THAT SHE WAS CAPABLE OF TAKING CARE OF HERSELF.

She was confronted more with the unexpected while abroad and **WAS ABLE TO DEVELOP RELAXED PROBLEM SOLVING** to those situations.

I THINK OUR DAUGHTER HAS AN INCREASED APPRECIATION FOR FAMILY, the experience matured her immensely, and her ability to communicate with others is even better than it was before.

INDEPENDENCE SEEMED TO BLOSSOM.

SHE HAD MORE SELF CONFIDENCE, and was very happy with the experience and had a new refreshed spirit.

We visited him abroad at the end of his stay and **I SENSED A MATURITY AND CALM ASSURANCE THAT WAS DIFFERENT THAN I REMEMBERED.**

SHE LEARNED THAT THERE IS A WHOLE WORLD OUT THERE TO SEE AND THAT SHE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE OF IT. Also, that she is not afraid to go and travel to strange places on her own or with her friends. She also came back with a more acute appreciation for the things that she has here at home.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE PARENTS/GUARDIANS WHOSE STUDENTS ARE PREPARING TO GO ABROAD



PREPARE THEM WELL. THEN, GIVE THEM SPACE.

As cliché as it is, sometimes as parents we really just have to throw our kids into the middle of the swimming pool and let them figure out how to sink or swim on their own. I know, it is easier said than done. **THIS EXPERIENCE IS LIFE-CHANGING AND IF YOUR CHILD GETS THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO ABROAD WITH API,** then you will be really impressed with them when they return.

LET THEM GO! ALLOW THEM TO FIND THEIR OWN STRENGTH, CONFIDENCE AND ABILITY. As nerve wracking as it can be for a parent to let a child be so far away, that is the value of this experience. They have to figure things out without your guidance and this teaches them that they can! That confidence will stay with them forever.

CELEBRATE THE OPPORTUNITY! Allow for that space and independence that students need to develop a stronger sense of self, family, and global relationships.

LIVE VICARIOUSLY THROUGH THEIR EXPERIENCES.

RELAX, WISH THEM WELL AND ENJOY THEIR NERVES AND EXCITEMENT. Expect communications at odd times. Most importantly, be happy that you gave them the beautiful confident wings that you did. Try and visit them and allow them to share their new world with you.

I WOULD RECOMMEND ANYONE WHO IS REMOTELY THINKING OF THEIR CHILD GOING ABROAD TO MAKE IT HAPPEN. IT WAS THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME.

SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT, but allow them to make their own decisions and navigate their own experiences.

CUT THE STRINGS AND LET THEM FLY! Help them to be prepared to accept differences and not to be surprised by the familiar.

YOU NEED TO CHALLENGE YOURSELF AND SOMETIMES STEP OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE to learn more about other cultures and people. Sometimes that means taking a risk.

PREPARE FOR A GREAT AMOUNT OF PERSONAL GROWTH.

I WOULD TELL PARENTS/GUARDIANS THAT THE API STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM ITSELF MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE. I believe the services and comprehensiveness of API far outweigh what students may get if going from their own university to a partner university. My daughter received a fun and practical orientation upon arrival, beautiful and safe housing, prompt medical attention when needed, solid academic courses taught by engaging and warm faculty, and a range of volunteer and club experiences in which she participated. All of her questions and needs were addressed thoroughly and comprehensively. If parents/guardians understand the strengths and uniqueness of the host program they will worry less! (I worried A LOT before hand!)

THE API PROGRAM IS SUCH A POSITIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE. Although I was quite nervous, he did extremely well. I would highly recommend this program to other students without hesitation.

ALWAYS ENCOURAGE YOUR STUDENT TO TRAVEL AND TRAVEL OFTEN. THE WORLD IS AN AMAZING PLACE.