

2006 Study Abroad Student Deaths

Death date/ Day of incident	Name (age) Home state	Home university/ Education abroad program/ Student status/ Location of study	Location of death/ Cause of death/ Details/ News links	About this student
1/3/06 Tuesday	Matthew Madison/ (20) Montana	Gonzaga University/ Gonzaga in Florence Program/ Undergrad, study abroad, interim travel/ Italy	Scotland/ Fall/ Matthew and fellow students were attending Gonzaga's one-year Florence program. Students traveled to Scotland to see the country and also play golf. Matthew slipped and fell from the cliffs overlooking St. Andrew's "Old Course" and the North Sea. He fell about 60 feet and was pronounced dead at the scene. http://missoulian.com/news/local/obituaries/04wed/matthew-madison/article_2067572b-1a04-5d57-acce-6c11f22c20ab.html https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/gonzaga-student-dies-in-scotland-accident/	Matthew was a National Honor Society student who had been an all-state golfer and also graduated high school with honors. In college, he was an electrical engineering major and an avid Gonzaga basketball fan. He also was an experienced in many out-of-doors activities, including skiing, water-skiing, camping, fishing, and windsailing. Family called him "a quiet leader."
1/14/06	Nick Watson/ (21) Maryland	University of Maryland/ Cultural Experiences Abroad (CEA)/	Madrid, Spain/ Not Available/ http://www.dbknews.com/article_5f70e53b-7acb-5bc8-abce-	Nick was a government and politics major. He was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha, as well as their House Improvement Officer.

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		Undergrad, study abroad/ Spain	01e6a5cf46cc.html?mode=jqm%20http://academics.parkschool.net/upper/postscript/jan06.pdf http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/baltimore_sun/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=16394456	
1/28/06	Taryn King (21) Massachusetts	Bowdoin College/ Butler University/ National University of Ireland in Galway/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Ireland	Galway, Ireland/ Medical Event, illness/ Taryn had become ill and was being transported by ambulance to the hospital. She died before arriving. https://obituaries.bowdoin.edu/taryn-lindsey-king-07/ http://www.bowdoin.edu/news/archives/1bowdoincampus/002784.shtml http://www.nescac.com/news/2005-06/BOW Mourning King 012606	Taryn was a psychology major. She played on her college field hockey team and was named 2005's Small College Athletic Conference Rookie of the Year and Player of the Year. She also played lacrosse, was a volunteer at the children's center, and was an accomplished pianist.
5/14/06 Sunday	Meghan Sennott (20) Minnesota	Boston University/ BU Study Abroad Ecuador Program/ Undergrad, study abroad, interim travel/ Ecuador	Peru/ Vehicular/ Meghan was enrolled in BU's tropical ecology program in Ecuador. She and another student were traveling in Peru when a packed bus skidded off a mountain road and flipped on its side, killing 13 and	Meghan was a history and biology major. Family and friends remembered her as "beautiful, intelligent, hilarious, and free-spirited." She was eager to see the world, but also loved being a

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			<p>injuring 40. Another student, Rich Geddie, was listed in critical condition. The accident occurred before dawn.</p> <p>http://blogs.harvard.edu/dowbrigade/2006/05/16/bu-student-killed-in-peru/</p> <p>https://www.bu.edu/today/2006/bu-junior-killed-in-accident-in-peru/</p>	<p>student in Boston.</p>
6/6/06	<p>Andrew Harpstrite (17) Kansas</p>	<p>Labette County High School/ EF Tours/ High school, language program/ Costa Rica</p>	<p>Palo Seco Beach, Parrita, Costa Rica/ Drowned/ On June 6th, ten students and their teacher arrived with their 26-year old Spanish teacher, Brett Carlson, for a language immersion course. The group went swimming in the ocean. Three students were pulled in by rip currents and the teacher went in to save them. All four drowned. In the aftermath, the Costa Rican lifeguard association stated, "Our association has characterized that series of beaches on the central Pacific as unfit for swimming." None of the beaches has lifeguards or warnings, though local lifeguards have lobbied the country to better monitor their coastline for swimmer safety. The hotel where students were staying said they warn their tourists, but one of the students recalled, "We were told</p>	<p>Andrew had just finished his junior year. Labette's principal described Andrew as "a shy, smart young man who started coming out of his shell after transferring from a smaller school."</p>

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			<p>[by the tour company] we could go to the beach as long as we were careful.” Danielle Tongier’s body was found on June 10th, Andrew Harpstrite’s on June 11th, Jessica Pierce’s on June 13th, and Brett Carlson’s on June 16th.</p> <p>http://www.ticotimes.net/2006/06/16/3-dead-1-missing-in-beach-tragedy</p> <p>http://cjonline.com/stories/061406/bre_dr_ownings.shtml#.WeY9khNSxsM</p>	
6/6/06	<p>Jessica Pierce (17) Kansas</p>	<p>Labette County High School/ EF Tours/ High school, language program/ Costa Rica</p>	<p>Palo Seco Beach, Parrita, Costa Rica/ Drowned/ On June 6th, ten students and their teacher arrived with their 26-year old Spanish teacher, Brett Carlson, for a language immersion course. The group went swimming in the ocean. Three students were pulled in by rip currents and the teacher went in to save them. All four drowned. In the aftermath, the Costa Rican lifeguard association stated, “Our association has characterized that series of beaches on the central Pacific as unfit for swimming.” None of the beaches has lifeguards or warnings, though local lifeguards have lobbied the country to better monitor their coastline for swimmer</p>	<p>Jessica had just finished her junior year. Labette’s high school tennis coach described Jessica and Danielle as “Just really good kids...They always gave it 100-percent, no matter what they were doing.”</p>

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			<p>safety. The hotel where students were staying said they warn their tourists, but one of the students recalled, “We were told [by the tour company] we could go to the beach as long as we were careful.” Danielle Tongier’s body was found on June 10th, Andrew Harpstrite’s on June 11th, Jessica Pierce’s on June 13th, and Brett Carlson’s on June 16th.</p> <p>http://www.ticotimes.net/2006/06/16/3-dead-1-missing-in-beach-tragedy</p> <p>http://cjonline.com/stories/061406/bre_dr_ownings.shtml#.WeY9khNSxsM</p>	
6/6/06	Danielle Tongier (18) Kansas	Labette County High School / EF Tours/ High School, language program/ Costa Rica	<p>Palo Seco Beach, Parrita, Costa Rica/ Drowned/ Ten students and their teacher arrived on June 6th for a language immersion-course with their 26-year old Spanish teacher, Brett Carlson. Three students were pulled out into the Pacific and the teacher went in to save them. All four drowned. In the aftermath, the Costa Rican lifeguard association stated, “Our association has characterized that series of beaches on the central Pacific as unfit for swimming.” None of the beaches has lifeguards or warnings, though local lifeguards have lobbied the</p>	<p>Danielle had just finished her senior year and been admitted to The University of Kansas. Labette’s high school tennis coach described Danielle and Jessica as “Just really good kids...They always gave it 100-percent, no matter what they were doing.”</p>

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			<p>country to better monitor their coastline for swimmer safety. The hotel where students were staying said they warn their tourists, but one of the students recalled, “We were told [by the tour company] we could go to the beach as long as we were careful.” Tongier’s body was found on June 10th, Harpstrite’s on June 11th, Pierce’s on June 13th, and Carlson’s on June 16th.</p> <p>http://www.ticotimes.net/2006/06/16/3-dead-1-missing-in-beach-tragedy</p> <p>http://cjonline.com/stories/061406/bre_dr_ownings.shtml#.WeY9khNSxsM</p>	
6/14/06	George Turner (“Turner”) Ashby/ (20) Florida	Florida State University/ FSU Panama campus/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Panama	<p>Panama/ Homicide/ During a party at Turner’s apartment, he and another student argued. Turner was stabbed in the leg and bled to death. The other student was held in connection with Turner’s death, but ultimately that student was released.</p> <p>http://jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/062106/nec_22151637.shtml#.WepgOxNSyCQ</p> <p>http://www.gainesville.com/article/LK/20</p>	Turner graduated from high school with an International Baccalaureate Diploma. He was a skilled soccer player and musician. He said, “music makes me whole.” In college, Turner joined Phi Delta Theta. He studied Spanish and Russian. Family described Turner as a funny and witty, but also a deep thinker. He hoped for a career that would allow him to influence the “security

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			060615/News/604185357/GS/ http://newsok.com/article/2948594 https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=173934211	and welfare of America.”
8/14/06	Kimberly (“Kim”) Rosario Perez/ (30) California	Michigan State University/ Michigan State University/ Graduate student, research program, interim travel/ Nigeria	<p>Accra, Ghana/ Vehicular/ Kim was on a short break from her research activities in Kano, Nigeria. She was riding in a passenger lorry near the center of Accra. The driver swerved to avoid a vender’s pushcart, but the lorry flipped. Both Kim and the vendor were killed. Several others were injured.</p> <p>http://www.kimperezscharship.com/kim-perez-memorial-site/life.php</p> <p>http://peacecorpsonline.org/messages/messages/467/2112658.html</p>	<p>Kim graduated with honors from of University of California, Santa Cruz. She also completed a master’s at Tufts. At the point of Kim’s death, she was a PhD candidate in political sociology. Titled “Decentralization and Representation in Nigerian Local Government: Bridging Ethnic, Religious, and Gender Cleavages in Kaduna, Nigeria,” Kim’s research focused on women’s issues in Islamic West Africa. In order to do this research, Kim had spent three years studying the Hausa language, and had also completed all of her academic coursework and passed her comprehensives.</p>

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				In addition to her many academic accomplishments, Kim had been a Peace Corps volunteer in South Africa.

Non-lethal incidents in 2006:

- Illness
- Stabbing injury
- Substandard housing
- Arrest, accused of murder
- Civil unrest, bombings, delayed and difficult evacuation
- Kidnappings
- Robberies