

2011 Study Abroad Deaths

| Death Date/<br>Day of week | Name (Age)<br>Home state        | Home university/<br>Education abroad program/<br>Student Status<br>Country of study | Location of death/<br>Cause of death/<br>Details/<br>News links                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | About this student                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| 1/4/11                     | Erik Downes/<br>(20)<br>Florida | Oglethorpe University/<br>EF Tours/<br>Undergrad, study abroad/<br>Costa Rica       | <p>Costa Rica/<br/>Drowned/<br/>Erik was on a 12-day academic trip, traveling with five other students and two professors. The program took students to Playa Dominica for a swimming outing. A riptide pulled Erik into the ocean. Friends tried to save him, but were unsuccessful. Three days later, Erik's body was found. Family sued the university, hoping to signal to schools that they must be cognizant of the landscape they place students in. However, their lawsuit was not successful.</p> <p><a href="http://www.ticotimes.net/2011/01/13/friends-family-mourn-pre-med-student-s-death">http://www.ticotimes.net/2011/01/13/friends-family-mourn-pre-med-student-s-death</a></p> <p><a href="http://mydeathspace.com/article/2011/01/10/Erik_Downes_(20)_drowned_while_swimming_in_Costa_Rica">http://mydeathspace.com/article/2011/01/10/Erik_Downes_(20)_drowned_while_swimming_in_Costa_Rica</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/su">https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/su</a></p> | Erik was a junior pre-med student, who also served as student body vice president. He participated in many school events, including community service projects and track. A serious student, Erik planned to become a cardiologist. Peers said of Erik, "He just kind of left the legacy of being a really nice guy." |

2011 Study Abroad Deaths

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|         |                                    |                                                                                                   | <p><a href="https://www.law.com/dailyreportonline/sites/dailyreportonline/2017/07/07/university-off-the-hook-for-drowned-student/?slreturn=20180010101518">mmary-judgment-favor-university-sponsoring-12-day-whitman-esq-https://www.law.com/dailyreportonline/sites/dailyreportonline/2017/07/07/university-off-the-hook-for-drowned-student/?slreturn=20180010101518</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2/25/11 | Austin Bice/<br>(22)<br>California | San Diego State University/<br>The University of Carlos III/<br>Undergrad, study abroad/<br>Spain | <p>Madrid, Spain/<br/>Disputed, Drowning versus Homicide/<br/>Austin was last seen on February 25<sup>th</sup>. On March 8<sup>th</sup>, his body was pulled from a shallow waterway with a series of locks, part of the Rio Manzanares River. Local authorities speculated Austin had fallen in and drowned. However, Austin’s parents were skeptical about how their son had ended of in the river. Moreover, they were concerned about how their son’s case was being handled. They said that by quickly taking their child’s case directly from “missing person” to “accidental death,” local authorities had eliminated the possibility of FBI involvement. In May of ’11, Spanish courts said evidence, including autopsy,</p> | <p>Austin played high school football. At 6’5” and 200 pounds, his coach called him “a gentle giant.” Friends described Austin as “friendly”, “laid back” and “fun to be with.” Austin was a senior honors student and international business major. He was on a semester-long study abroad course in Madrid. In Facebook messages posted while there, Austin spoke of his love of the city, including how much he loved taking walks.</p> |

2011 Study Abroad Deaths

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|                   |                                             |                                                                                                                                            | <p>confirmed accidental drowning as cause of death, and added that they did not suspect foul play.</p> <p><a href="http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/education/sdut-body-missing-sdsu-student-found-2011mar08-htmlstory.html">http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/education/sdut-body-missing-sdsu-student-found-2011mar08-htmlstory.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.kpbs.org/news/2011/mar/09/death-foreign-exchange-student-austin-bice/">http://www.kpbs.org/news/2011/mar/09/death-foreign-exchange-student-austin-bice/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/europe/05/10/spain.us.student/index.html">http://www.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/europe/05/10/spain.us.student/index.html</a></p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 4/5/11<br>Tuesday | Cameron O'Neill-Mullin/<br>(16)<br>Maryland | St. Paul's School, Baltimore/<br>St. Hilda's School, Southport, Australia/<br>High School, education abroad exchange program/<br>Australia | Australia/<br>Vehicular/<br>Cameron was on a five-week exchange course. She had become close friends with St. Hilda's School student, Paris Wilson. The two went to Goondiwindi Water Park with the Wilson family. Paris and Cameron were riding on an inflatable tube being towed by a motorboat. When the inflatable was slammed into a tree, the two girls were killed instantly. Paris' sister, Dodie, was                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Cameron was an <i>a cappella</i> solo singer. She also was a tall and powerful soccer player. Her father said, "She was competitive, but she was equally compassionate. She was a leader, but a quiet leader." Cameron was an honors student who believed in community service and world travel. "It was a huge step...to go off to Australia for five weeks, without knowing anybody...It was something that she wanted to do and we were |

2011 Study Abroad Deaths

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|                             |                                                     |                                                                                                                    | <p>critically injured, but recovered.</p> <p><a href="https://patch.com/maryland/timonium/through-a-fathers-eyes-remembering-cameron-oneill-mullin">https://patch.com/maryland/timonium/through-a-fathers-eyes-remembering-cameron-oneill-mullin</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.baltimoresun.com/ph-tt-st-paul-australia-0404-20120330-story.html">http://www.baltimoresun.com/ph-tt-st-paul-australia-0404-20120330-story.html</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>really proud of her.”</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p>4/14/11<br/>Thursday</p> | <p>Jasmine<br/>Jahanshahi/<br/>(25)<br/>Florida</p> | <p>University of<br/>California Berkeley/<br/>Sciences Po-College/<br/>Undergrad, study<br/>abroad/<br/>France</p> | <p>Paris/<br/>Medical Event, injury, fire with fall/<br/>On Thursday, April 14, Jasmine and<br/>her roommate, Grace Flott, were in<br/>another student’s apartment when<br/>they heard a sudden loud bang. They<br/>opened the door into the hallway.<br/>Immediately, thick smoke began<br/>pouring into the room. Flott says, “I<br/>could feel my skin start to burn and<br/>my clothing start to burn.” Everyone<br/>moved to the only source of fresh air,<br/>the windows. They were on the 4<sup>th</sup><br/>floor, but nevertheless, began to<br/>jump to the courtyard below. When<br/>Grace regained consciousness, she<br/>was lying in the courtyard, in great<br/>pain. (Grace had 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree<br/>burns over 50% of her body, plus a<br/>broken spine and ankle.) She could</p> | <p>As a pianist, Jasmine attended an<br/>arts magnet high school. A friend<br/>said of Jasmine, “She was<br/>absolutely fearless...Whenever I<br/>was with her, I felt she knew<br/>something about life that I did not.<br/>She was so distinct and bold.” (In<br/>online searches about Jasmine,<br/>“fearless” is a word that comes up<br/>over and over again.) Jasmine<br/>attended UC-Berkeley as a<br/>history/political science major.<br/>Jasmine’s roommate at Berkeley<br/>said, “Jasmine never wasted time.<br/>She never stopped studying<br/>because...she said she could never<br/>know everything, so how was she<br/>supposed to know when to<br/>stop?...This is how she<br/>accomplished so much.” Jasmine’s</p> |

2011 Study Abroad Deaths

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|         |                         |                                                                 | <p>see Jasmine, who was not moving, and realized she was likely dead. “We have such amazing safety standards in the U.S. that when you go to Western Europe you kind of assume it’s going to be the same,” Flott said. Four other students also perished that day. (In the aftermath of Jasmine’s death, her parents came together with fire safety experts and surviving students, to form the Jasmine Jahanshahi Fire Safety Foundation.)</p> <p><a href="http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/jasmine-jahanshahi-former-dreyfoos-student-dies-paris-apartment-building-fire/H3vwwLU019gwAhPABnmQpO/">http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/jasmine-jahanshahi-former-dreyfoos-student-dies-paris-apartment-building-fire/H3vwwLU019gwAhPABnmQpO/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.berkeleyside.com/2011/04/19/death-of-uc-student-prompts-friends-to-fight-for-change/">http://www.berkeleyside.com/2011/04/19/death-of-uc-student-prompts-friends-to-fight-for-change/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.firesafetyfoundation.org/about-jasmine/">http://www.firesafetyfoundation.org/about-jasmine/</a></p> | <p>plan was to study one year at Sciences Po-College Paris, then return to Berkeley. In a paper Jasmine wrote for a college course, she said, “The beauty of a memory is that it can’t be killed. It can only be reconstructed. This reconfiguration of the past may be so utterly different than the truth that it may seem that truth is lost forever. However, through activism, art, music and literature, the passage of time can be re-opened.”</p> |
| 4/19/11 | Mamie (“Tootie”) Hyatt/ | Boston University/<br>Fulbright Fellowship/<br>Graduate school, | Sweden/<br>Medical Event, illness/<br>Mamie was found dead. An autopsy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Mamie was a graduate of Kent State University. She had a master’s degree in art museum studies from                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

2011 Study Abroad Deaths

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|        | (31)                                                | research program/<br>Sweden                                                                                               | <p>was being performed. News reports speculated that Mamie had suffered a heart attack, though no source for this information was cited and there were no follow up articles.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bu.edu/today/2011/bu-student-dies-while-studying-abroad/">https://www.bu.edu/today/2011/bu-student-dies-while-studying-abroad/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ohio/obituary.aspx?n=mamie-elizabeth-hyatt&amp;pid=150961254">http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ohio/obituary.aspx?n=mamie-elizabeth-hyatt&amp;pid=150961254</a></p> | <p>Tufts University. Mamie had interned at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC, the Guggenheim in Venice, and the Museum of Fine Arts Boston. She was a PhD student in art history at Boston University. She had received BU's Adelson Curatorial Fellowship in American Art, and was a Fulbright Fellow studying in Sweden. Mamie was particularly interested in African American art, especially expressionist painter Herbert Gentry.</p> |
| 5/4/11 | Caitlin ("Caity")<br>Noelle Jones/<br>(17)/<br>Ohio | Patriot Preparatory Academy, Columbus, OH/<br>Patriot Preparatory Academy/<br>High school, mission program/<br>Costa Rica | <p>Costa Rica/<br/>Drowned/<br/>Charter school senior high students were organized on a school-sponsored Christian missionary trip. They were "going to orphanages and handing out toys and books and crayons to kids and helping build a church," said the mother of James Smith. Near the Pacific coast town of Parrita, four staff and eight students went swimming. A riptide grabbed five of them, and a lifeguard was able to rescue two. The body of Caity washed up to shore on the same day. James Smith was found the next day,</p>                     | <p>Caity was a 4.0 student. Family said, "Her heart was to help people, [especially] kids."</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

2011 Study Abroad Deaths

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|        |                            |                                                                                                                           | <p>and Kai Lamar, the day after that. Four months into 2011, at the point of these three deaths, 47 people had drowned at Costa Rican beaches.</p> <p><a href="http://abcnews.go.com/US/ohio-teens-drown-costa-rica-missionary-trip-missing/story?id=13535719">http://abcnews.go.com/US/ohio-teens-drown-costa-rica-missionary-trip-missing/story?id=13535719</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dispatch/obituary.aspx?pid=150853470">http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dispatch/obituary.aspx?pid=150853470</a></p>                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 5/4/11 | Kai Lamar/<br>(16)<br>Ohio | Patriot Preparatory Academy, Columbus, OH/<br>Patriot Preparatory Academy/<br>High school, mission program/<br>Costa Rica | <p>Costa Rica/<br/>Drowned/<br/>Charter school senior high students were organized on a school-sponsored Christian missionary trip. They were “going to orphanages and handing out toys and books and crayons to kids and helping build a church,” said the mother of James Smith. Near the Pacific coast town of Parrita, four staff and eight students went swimming. A riptide grabbed five of them, and a lifeguard was able to rescue two. The body of Caity Jones washed up to shore on the same day. James Smith was found the next day, and Kai, the day after that.</p> | <p>Kai was morning announcer at his high school and a member of the soccer team. Kai was active in theater and played the lead role in “The King and I”. He was a gifted guitarist and singer. Kai planned to attend college as a psychology major, “so he could help people.”</p> |

2011 Study Abroad Deaths

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|        |                                   |                                                                                                                           | <p>Four months into 2011, at the point of these three deaths, 47 people had drowned at Costa Rican beaches.</p> <p><a href="http://abcnews.go.com/US/ohio-teens-drown-costa-rica-missionary-trip-missing/story?id=13535719">http://abcnews.go.com/US/ohio-teens-drown-costa-rica-missionary-trip-missing/story?id=13535719</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dispatch/obituary.aspx?pid=150959655">http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dispatch/obituary.aspx?pid=150959655</a></p>                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                  |
| 5/4/11 | James Eric Smith/<br>(16)<br>Ohio | Patriot Preparatory Academy, Columbus, OH/<br>Patriot Preparatory Academy/<br>High school, mission program/<br>Costa Rica | <p>Costa Rica/<br/>Drowned/<br/>Charter school senior high students were organized on a school-sponsored Christian missionary trip. They were “going to orphanages and handing out toys and books and crayons to kids and helping build a church,” said the mother of James. Near the Pacific coast town of Parrita, four staff and eight students went swimming. A riptide grabbed five of them, and a lifeguard was able to rescue two. The body of Caity Jones washed up to shore on the same day. James was found the next day, and Kai Lamar, the day after that. Four months into 2011, at the</p> | James was an avid guitar player. This was his first mission trip. He had been planning for it since the previous September and was very excited. |



2011 Study Abroad Deaths

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|        |                                    |                                                                                   | <p>point of these three deaths, 47 people had drowned at Costa Rican beaches.</p> <p><a href="http://abcnews.go.com/US/ohio-teens-drown-costa-rica-missionary-trip-missing/story?id=13535719">http://abcnews.go.com/US/ohio-teens-drown-costa-rica-missionary-trip-missing/story?id=13535719</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.dispatch.com/article/20110505/news/305059692">http://www.dispatch.com/article/20110505/news/305059692</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 6/2/11 | Justin Johnston/<br>(16)<br>Kansas | McLouth High School/<br>EF Tours/<br>High school, language program/<br>Costa Rica | <p>La Fortuna de San Carlos, Costa Rica/<br/>Homicide/<br/>Justin was on a 9-day Spanish Club trip with 12 students and 2 district sponsors. Around 4am, students were returning to their rooms. One of the hotel guards shot Justin in the chest. There were no emergency medical resources, and Justin quickly died. In the aftermath, the guard said he had mistaken Justin for a thief. An investigation revealed that the guard had no security training and his weapon was not registered. Charges were brought against the guard. He was convicted and sentenced to 15 years in prison. The sentence is being appealed. The Johnston family is also suing EF tours for wrongful death.</p> | <p>Described by family as an “outgoing and charismatic youth,” Justin was a high school junior honor roll student. He ran track and played baseball. Justin planned to attend the University of Kansas with aspirations to study criminal law and forensics.</p> |

2011 Study Abroad Deaths

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|                     |                                                    |                                                                                                                       | <p>They hope to “send a strong message” to the student travel industry.</p> <p><a href="http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2011/jun/02/mclouth-teenager-shot-killed-school-trip-costa-ric/">http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2011/jun/02/mclouth-teenager-shot-killed-school-trip-costa-ric/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/16-year-old-student-justin-johnson-shot-and-killed-in-costa-rica-on-school-trip/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/16-year-old-student-justin-johnson-shot-and-killed-in-costa-rica-on-school-trip/</a></p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 6/18/11<br>Saturday | Rebecca Brooke (“Brooke”) Winslett/ (30) Tennessee | University of Tennessee, Chattanooga/ University of Tennessee, faculty led/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Greece and Italy | <p>Athens, Greece/ Medical event, illness/ Brooke became suddenly ill and died.</p> <p><a href="http://www.chattanooga.com/2011/6/24/203769/Winslett-Rebecca-Brooke.aspx">http://www.chattanooga.com/2011/6/24/203769/Winslett-Rebecca-Brooke.aspx</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Family described Brooke as a lifelong learner. She was interested in history and literature. She was especially well versed on her family’s 250-year history as pioneers. Brooke was a tireless human rights advocate, particularly speaking out for the disabled. |
| 6/28/11<br>Tuesday  | Anthony Radze/ (16) Michigan                       | Manchester High School/ Student exchange program/ High school, language program/ Germany                              | <p>Germany/ Drowned/ Anthony was on a two-week trip to improve his German language skills. Students traveled to Prague, then returned to Berlin for the rest of the day. The weather was beautiful and a</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Anthony was a senior in high school. He enjoyed his German language and drama classes. He also enjoyed photography, gardening and cooking.                                                                                                                         |

2011 Study Abroad Deaths

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|        |                                                    |                                                                                        | <p>few students decided to swim at a nearby lake. News accounts do not say whether chaperones or lifeguards were present. At some point, it was recognized that Anthony was missing. German police found Anthony’s body in the lake.</p> <p><a href="http://www.annarbor.com/news/manchester-high-school-student-dies-in-drowning-accident-during-school-trip-to-germany/">http://www.annarbor.com/news/manchester-high-school-student-dies-in-drowning-accident-during-school-trip-to-germany/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KCa32Hy0s4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KCa32Hy0s4</a></p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 7/9/11 | Kathryn (“Kathy Wilkins”) Rios/ (22) New Hampshire | University of New Mexico/ University of New Mexico/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Nicaragua | <p>Nicaragua/ Medical Event, illness/ Kathy was traveling with her course, “Sustainable Development in Central America: Poverty, Inequality and Growth in Nicaragua.” She died due to complications from lupus.</p> <p><a href="http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/obituaries-memorials/obituaries/2011/07/14/kathryn-m-wilkins-rios/">http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/obituaries-memorials/obituaries/2011/07/14/kathryn-m-wilkins-rios/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.dailylobo.com/index.ph">http://www.dailylobo.com/index.ph</a></p>                                                                                | <p>In high school, Kathy played field hockey and lacrosse. Family said, “She refused to let health issues stop her living.” In college, she was a Latin American Studies and Economics major. Kathy was proud of her Scottish heritage and Catholic faith, and was passionate about social justice. She enjoyed simple things, like time with friends and walking her dog. She also loved the adventure of travel.</p> |

2011 Study Abroad Deaths

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|         |                                      |                                                                                                         | <a href="http://www.dailyca.org/2011/07/student-studying-in-nicaragua-dies">p/article/2011/07/student studying in nicaragua dies</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 7/17/11 | Christopher Zahuta/<br>(20)<br>Haiti | University of California, Berkeley/<br>All Hands International/<br>Undergrad, mission program/<br>Haiti | Haiti/<br>Fall/<br>Christopher had been in Haiti for over a month, as part of a mission program to build schools. On 1/14/17, Christopher was sleeping on the roof of a building. The perimeter was bordered by a snow fence, however the fence was not strong enough to break Christopher's fall when he rolled over in his sleep. Christopher fell 15 feet to the ground and died three days later. His family elected to make Christopher an organ donor, and his heart now lives in a Florida man.<br><br><a href="http://www.dailyca.org/2011/09/06/uc-berkeley-student-dies-while-volunteering-in-haiti/">http://www.dailyca.org/2011/09/06/uc-berkeley-student-dies-while-volunteering-in-haiti/</a> | Christopher was described as all "heart and humor." He had been an economics and business major. However, he hoped to change the world through disaster relief work, and so he was also studying sociology, with a specific interest in the relationships between people of the world. He was determined to participate in the All Hands Mission program. Toward that end, Christopher had raised \$4000 in donations. |
| 7/21/11 | Zoe Damon/<br>(20)<br>New York       | SUNY Binghamton/<br>Binghamton University and the Tropical Forestry Initiative/<br>Undergrad, study     | Costa Rica/<br>Vehicular/<br>Zoe was one of sixteen students attending a one-month biology program that appeared on Binghamton's International                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Zoe was a high honors double major in biology and art. Her mother states, "Zoe was a talented, ambitious, smart, community-oriented, compassionate person." She was a scholar-athlete, painter,                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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|  |  | <p>abroad/<br/>Costa Rica</p> | <p>Education website. It was a course operated through Binghamton University and the Tropical Forestry Initiative of Costa Rica. Two weeks into the course, a van being driven by the professor, slid from a narrow rain-slick road and pitched down a steep ravine, landing upside down in water. Zoe did not survive. (Four other students, plus the driver and professor, were injured.) In the aftermath of Zoe’s death, her family was told that the course was not a SUNY offering. The program was said to be a “professor-run” course. So, for example, the professor was not required to carry insurance, and thus, he did not.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bupipedream.com/news/1383/zoe-damon-bu-senior-dies-on-school-trip-in-costa-rica/">https://www.bupipedream.com/news/1383/zoe-damon-bu-senior-dies-on-school-trip-in-costa-rica/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.chronicle.com/blogs/ticker/inghamton-u-student-dies-on-overseas-research-trip/34701">https://www.chronicle.com/blogs/ticker/inghamton-u-student-dies-on-overseas-research-trip/34701</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/04/business/study-abroad-programs-address-a-risk-road-">https://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/04/business/study-abroad-programs-address-a-risk-road-</a></p> | <p>and pianist.</p> |
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2011 Study Abroad Deaths

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|         |                                     |                                                                                       | <a href="#">fatalities.html</a><br><br><a href="http://www.ticotimes.net/2011/07/18/u-s-student-killed-after-van-falls-into-ravine-in-perez-zeledon">http://www.ticotimes.net/2011/07/18/u-s-student-killed-after-van-falls-into-ravine-in-perez-zeledon</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 7/22/11 | Kan Mei Chan/<br>(24)<br>New Jersey | Caribbean Medical School/<br>Caribbean Medical School/<br>Graduate school/<br>Curacao | <p>Curacao/<br/>Homicide/<br/>Students were outside their dorm when they heard screams. An enraged student was stabbing one of the teachers, Dr. Farrah Syed. Mei Chan came to Dr. Syed's aid and she was also stabbed. Though Dr. Syed survived, Mei Chan did not. The perpetrator, 20-year old student Moustapha Khalesa, was jailed, charged with murder, and being evaluated for mental illness.</p> <p><a href="http://www.nj.com/hudson/index.ssf/2011/07/jersey-city-medical-student-ki.html">http://www.nj.com/hudson/index.ssf/2011/07/jersey-city-medical-student-ki.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.nj.com/hudson/index.ssf/2011/07/classmate-charged-with-murderi.html">http://www.nj.com/hudson/index.ssf/2011/07/classmate-charged-with-murderi.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/sdut-police-probe-killing-of-us-">http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/sdut-police-probe-killing-of-us-</a></p> | Mei Chan graduated from Rutgers in pre-med. She was studying medicine in Curacao at Caribbean Medical School. Mei Chan was in her last year of medical student. She wished to become a doctor in order to help people. |

2011 Study Abroad Deaths

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|                                  |                                           |                                                                                                                                                                   | <a href="http://www.nj.com/curacao-2011jul26-story.html">med-student-in-curacao-2011jul26-story.html</a><br><br><a href="http://www.nj.com/hudson/index.ssf/2011/07/jersey-city-medical-student-ki.html">http://www.nj.com/hudson/index.ssf/2011/07/jersey-city-medical-student-ki.html</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 8/13/11<br>Friday or<br>Saturday | Kelly Rose<br>Denman/<br>(20)<br>Colorado | University of<br>Washington/<br>[Education abroad<br>program not noted in<br>news stories]/<br>Undergrad, study<br>abroad, pre-program<br>travel/<br>South Africa | Vernazza, Italy/<br>Drowned following Fall/<br>Kelly was ten days away from an<br>autumn semester study abroad in<br>South Africa. She was on pre-<br>program travel through Italy and<br>Spain. On the night of her death,<br>Kelly went out with friends. She<br>returned to her room in Cinque<br>Terre, a region of northwest Italy<br>known for rugged coast and steep<br>cliffs. In the morning, Kelly's<br>roommates reported her missing.<br>That afternoon, local boys found<br>Kelly's body in the water. No one was<br>clear from where she'd fallen. A local<br>prosecutor ordered an autopsy.<br>Pathology concluded that, sometime<br>after 4am, Kelly tipped from her<br>window ledge into an 80-foot drop<br>down the cliffs and into the ocean.<br>Reporter Candace Dempsey writes,<br>"Vernazza is no Yosemite, a place | Kelly was a business major and a<br>member of Delta Gamma sorority.<br>She was said to be popular,<br>beautiful, and very excited about<br>her fall semester in South Africa. In<br>anticipation of her travels, Kelly<br>had posted "Die Living" on her<br>Twitter profile. "She had a zest for<br>life. She literally lived every day to<br>the fullest." |

2011 Study Abroad Deaths

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|         |                                          |                                                                                                          | <p>where adventurers come to take risks. No, Vernazza is a chic stop for Americans...” However, locals cited concerns about the safety of tourists, especially young students in an unfamiliar landscape filled with steep cliffs.</p> <p><a href="https://www.denverpost.com/2011/08/15/cherry-creek-high-graduate-dies-in-fall-from-italian-balcony/">https://www.denverpost.com/2011/08/15/cherry-creek-high-graduate-dies-in-fall-from-italian-balcony/</a></p> <p><a href="http://blog.seattlepi.com/dempsey/2011/08/14/beautiful-u-s-college-student-plunges-to-death-in-italy/">http://blog.seattlepi.com/dempsey/2011/08/14/beautiful-u-s-college-student-plunges-to-death-in-italy/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/uw-student-drowns-after-80-foot-fall-in-italy/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/uw-student-drowns-after-80-foot-fall-in-italy/</a></p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 8/15/11 | Emily Spickler/<br>(19)<br>West Virginia | West Virginia University/<br>University of Southern Queensland/<br>Undergrad, study abroad/<br>Australia | <p>Australia/<br/>Medical Event, illness/<br/>Emily had spent six weeks of a year-long program in Toowomba, Australia. On August 15<sup>th</sup>, she was found dead in her dorm room. Her parents reported that she’d “felt sick over the weekend, but was better.” That was her last phone call home. An Australian coroner, along with</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Emily was a journalism student, said to be “smart” and “funny”. She was a ballet dancer and a model. She had recently completed a fashion magazine internship in Southern California. After graduation, Emily hoped to be a fashion writer. She died three days shy of her 20<sup>th</sup> birthday.</p> |



2011 Study Abroad Deaths

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|         |                           |                                                | <p>Emily’s family, suggested she died from complications of spherocytosis, a blood condition that had been, until her death, asymptomatic. Physicians speculated that in this new geographic region, bacteria were able to overwhelm Emily’s body.</p> <p><a href="http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2011/08/emily_spickler_west_virginia_student_model_toowomba_university_australia.html">http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2011/08/emily_spickler_west_virginia_student_model_toowomba_university_australia.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/grieving-parents-set-to-fly-out-to-reclaim-their-lost-angel/news-story/711b96e2b73989fe3cafb3ee691bb986?sv=d3b4dfcd6605419fd6120238a2dd14f1">http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/grieving-parents-set-to-fly-out-to-reclaim-their-lost-angel/news-story/711b96e2b73989fe3cafb3ee691bb986?sv=d3b4dfcd6605419fd6120238a2dd14f1</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.news.com.au/national/why-did-emily-die-in-paradise/news-story/0c1935cd27e3b88335353b980cae60b4">http://www.news.com.au/national/why-did-emily-die-in-paradise/news-story/0c1935cd27e3b88335353b980cae60b4</a></p> |                                                                                             |
| 8/31/11 | Brittany (“Britt”) Keele/ | Post-undergrad, language course/ News accounts | Hamburg, Germany/<br>Homicide/<br>Britt had completed undergrad, but                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Britt was a graduate from the University of Houston. She was interested in photographer and |

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|  | <p>(23)<br/>Texas</p> | <p>indicate Britt had or was about to enroll in school. However, news coverage does not indicate which program and whether or not it had started./ Germany</p> | <p>had hoped to study abroad. So she enrolled (had, or was about to) in an overseas master’s program, located in Hamburg. Early summer of 2011, Britt moved in with a friend and began her studies in June. At some point she met a Greek traveler who had just finished his master’s in engineering. This man stabbed and “ritualistically” killed Britt. He then attempted suicide, jumping from a staircase, which resulted in injuries that left him comatose. Emergency personal found the man in possession of a key. This key led police to Britt’s room, where they discovered her body. The man was convicted of murder. German courts declared him legally insane, saying “he will spend the rest of his life in a closed facility.”</p> <p><a href="http://eu.greekreporter.com/2011/09/09/spartan-student-murders-texan-woman-in-hamburg-hotel-room/">http://eu.greekreporter.com/2011/09/09/spartan-student-murders-texan-woman-in-hamburg-hotel-room/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2125201/Brittany-Keele-murder-Certifiably-insane-Greek-">http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2125201/Brittany-Keele-murder-Certifiably-insane-Greek-</a></p> | <p>language. Family described Britt as a “selfless, giving, kind person,” who believed in daily random acts of kindness. In memory of Brittany, her family created a Facebook page, “Random Acts of Kindness in Honor of Brittany Nicole Keele.”</p> |
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2011 Study Abroad Deaths

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|                     |                                              |                                                                                                        | <a href="#">engineer-stabbed-American-tourist-200-times-dismembered-body.html</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 9/22/11<br>Thursday | Thomas ("Tom") Plotkin/<br>(20)<br>Minnesota | University of Iowa/<br>National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS)/<br>Undergrad, study abroad/<br>India | India/<br>Fall/<br>Thomas enrolled in a semester-long study abroad course with NOLS-India because he wanted a "cultural immersion," and knew for that he would need "the world's best guides." One month into NOLS' course, Thomas slipped from a wet narrow hiking trail and fell nearly 300-feet into the Gori Ganga River, a Class V river at flood stage. Thomas' body was never found. In the aftermath of Thomas' death, his family learned that he was NOLS 12 <sup>th</sup> death. Moreover, the school's pedagogy—which absents guides in high-risk situations, in order that students learn leadership—allowed for a distance miscalculation to stand uncorrected. This put students in the position of hiking in rain, near dark, tired, hungry, carrying newly resupplied and "heavier than ever" backpacks, all without supervision. About a year after Thomas' death, the University of Iowa—who had done | Thomas played high school and college ice hockey and lacrosse. His position was always defense, and he loved defending his teammates. Thomas' said his freshman year of college was "a lot of fun," but by sophomore year he considered himself a "scholar-athlete." He declared himself an economics major, with an interest in sustainable development and international business. He was specifically perplexed that there could be human suffering in a world with so much abundance. Thomas hoped to someday be a part of a solution to world hunger. Along with other U-Iowa students, Thomas built three-stage composters and instructed anyone interested about the benefits of composting. Family described Thomas as "a watcher...quiet and smart, humble and searching," "the glue between so many different people." He often had "a glint in his eyes that suggested affection and |

2011 Study Abroad Deaths

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|                     |                                      |                                                                                     | <p>their own investigation—severed ties with NOLS.</p> <p><a href="https://www.twincities.com/2013/10/23/minnetonka-mom-sues-trekking-company-in-college-sons-fatal-fall/">https://www.twincities.com/2013/10/23/minnetonka-mom-sues-trekking-company-in-college-sons-fatal-fall/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.dailyowan.com/2012/02/16/metro/27043.html">http://www.dailyowan.com/2012/02/16/metro/27043.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.dailyowan.com/2012/10/04/Metro/30168.html">http://www.dailyowan.com/2012/10/04/Metro/30168.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://trib.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/national-outdoor-leadership-school-faces-wrongful-death-lawsuit/article_0d2dfb24-531a-528f-a30e-49ffd279a230.html">http://trib.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/national-outdoor-leadership-school-faces-wrongful-death-lawsuit/article_0d2dfb24-531a-528f-a30e-49ffd279a230.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.twincities.com/2017/07/07/when-study-abroad-ends-in-death-u-s-parents-find-few-answers/">https://www.twincities.com/2017/07/07/when-study-abroad-ends-in-death-u-s-parents-find-few-answers/</a></p> | <p>amusement” and will forever be remembered for his “smile and hugs.”</p>                                                                                                           |
| 11/15/11<br>Tuesday | Derrick Flahive/<br>(20)<br>Colorado | Colby College,<br>Waterville, Maine/<br>SIT Chile:<br>“Socioeconomic &<br>Political | Santiago, Chile/<br>Drowned/<br>Derrick was traveling with other students to the Vincente Perez Rosales National Park. Along with a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Derrick was a global studies major, with a minor in philosophy. He was also a skilled lacrosse player. Derrick’s lacrosse coach spoke of his high-level athletic skill, but also his |

2011 Study Abroad Deaths

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|          |                                  | Transformation Program”/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Chile                                  | <p>friend, Derrick jumped into a chute-like waterfall. A tourist boat, traveling on the Petrohue River, was able to rescue Derrick’s friend, but not Derrick. In the process of falling, Derrick hit his head, lost consciousness, gone below water and drowned. His body was recovered.</p> <p><a href="https://www.denverpost.com/2011/11/16/kent-denver-graduate-dies-in-drowning-accident-in-chile/">https://www.denverpost.com/2011/11/16/kent-denver-graduate-dies-in-drowning-accident-in-chile/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/littleton-student-dies-after-jumping-into-chilean-falls">https://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/littleton-student-dies-after-jumping-into-chilean-falls</a></p> | <p>ability to connect with people: “We lost a very dynamic young man in Derrick Flahive.” In addition to his time in Chile, Derrick had volunteered in Tanzania and Zimbabwe, building schools, wells, and stoves for people in need. (Derrick’s family runs a non-profit focused on global development, the Flahive Family Foundation.)</p>    |
| 11/23/11 | Landon Hill/ (21) North Carolina | Appalachian State University/ Univesity Pablo de Olavide/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Spain | <p>Seville, Spain/ Medical Event, illness/ A couple months into Brandon’s course, he complained about a stiff neck. The next day, he was found dead in his bed. Landon died from bacterial meningitis.</p> <p><a href="http://www.wsocvtv.com/news/local-college-student-dies-while-studying-abroad/223012915">http://www.wsocvtv.com/news/local-college-student-dies-while-studying-abroad/223012915</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.wataugademocrat.com/">http://www.wataugademocrat.com/</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Landon’s semester long course started in August and was meant to continue into January. Landon’s professor said of him, “He loved to learn about cultures.” Another student said, “He planned to be back in time to help with the International Student Orientation, because international students were a large part of his life here.”</p> |

2011 Study Abroad Deaths

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|         |                                            |                                                                                                                                                                    | <a href="http://news/asu-student-dies-in-spain/article_99267af3-e0cd-5070-9fb7-ae71c513d702.html">news/asu-student-dies-in-spain/article_99267af3-e0cd-5070-9fb7-ae71c513d702.html</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 12/2/11 | Travis Eiler/<br>(23)<br>South<br>Carolina | Southern Wesleyan<br>University and<br>Spartanburg<br>Methodist College/<br>CRU/<br>Recent graduate, on<br>his third internship<br>with CRU program/<br>Kazakhstan | Shymkent, Kazakhstan/<br>Homicide/<br>Travis was recruited from SMC<br>campus by CRU (previously known<br>as Campus Crusades). He interned<br>with CRU twice, and though he was a<br>new graduate, this was his third<br>internship with the same entity that<br>had recruited him from SMC. This<br>time, Travis was sent to “Central<br>Asia,” to a place so dangerous that “to<br>protect the safety” of interns and<br>staff, the country name was not to be<br>said. Travis’ roommate found him<br>suffocated, a plastic bag over his<br>head. Travis’ family filed suit against<br>CRU. Their complaint states that the<br>organization was not in compliance<br>with Kazakhstan laws and<br>“intentionally, deliberately and with<br>reckless disregard for his health and<br>safety, sent Travis to...Shymkent.”<br><br><a href="http://mydeathspace.com/vb/showthread.php?24948-Travis-Eiler-(23)-was-suffocated-with-a-plastic-bag-">http://mydeathspace.com/vb/showthread.php?24948-Travis-Eiler-(23)-was-suffocated-with-a-plastic-bag-</a> | Travis attended Spartanburg<br>Methodist College on a cross-<br>country scholarship, then<br>transferred to Southern Wesleyan<br>University, where he also ran track.<br>He led his college track teams in<br>national competitions. He was on<br>the Dean’s List every school year.<br>Travis believed in the value of<br>service. His family said of him,<br>“[Travis] was so genuine in his<br>faith and cared for people.” |

2011 Study Abroad Deaths

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|  |  |  | <a href="#">and-an-investigation-is-ongoing</a><br><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiq6UpHnDdc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiq6UpHnDdc</a><br><a href="https://www.courthousenews.com/campus-crusade-for-christ-blamed-for-death/">https://www.courthousenews.com/campus-crusade-for-christ-blamed-for-death/</a><br><a href="https://www.cru.org/us/en/opportunities/internships.html">https://www.cru.org/us/en/opportunities/internships.html</a> |  |
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- Non-lethal incidents during 2011:  
Natural disaster (earthquake, tsunami)  
Civil unrest  
Injuries  
Physical assaults  
Robberies  
Sexual assaults  
Arrests, Interrogation, Imprisonment  
Kidnapping