

2014 Education Abroad Student Deaths

Death Date/ Day of incident	Name (age) Home state	Home university/ Education abroad program/ Student status/ Country of study	Location of death/ Cause of death/ Details/ News links	About this student
02/20/14 Sunday	John Durkin/ (21) New Hampshire	Bates College/ Trinity College/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Italy	Rome, Italy/ Homicide, assault, with Medical Event, injury/ John was found dead on railroad tracks. Initial news reports suggested that John had gone to Campo de Fiori with friends, but sometime after midnight, wandered away from his group—the implication being that John’s death was a youthful accident. However, John’s family hired a team of investigators. After 28 months, a report was issued. Forensic pathology showed that John had been drugged with GHB and struck several times by a blunt instrument on the right side of his head. Robbery was presumed the motive, as John’s cell phone and money were gone. Train station surveillance video showed John walking into St. Peter’s station at 5:15am. At 6:35am, John’s body was found on the tracks. The Durkin family said, “...the pathologist reported that John would likely have been very disoriented...[and this] may explain why he walked in an opposite	As a youth, John enjoyed many sports, particularly soccer, baseball and football. John was analytical, calling game plays at a young age. He wrote for the school newspaper, sang in the choir, and was captain of his senior year football team. In college, John was an economics major. He had just completed a challenging semester and was looking forward to his study abroad in Italy. Family describes John as “faithful, kind, loyal, witty, disciplined, competitive and loving.” In the aftermath of John’s death, his family established the John Nolan Durkin Scholarship ‘15 at Bates to honor John’s legacy and support Bates’ scholar-athletes.

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			<p>direction from Campo de Fiori to his campus housing.”</p> <p>https://www.bates.edu/news/2014/02/22/durkin-death-announcement/</p> <p>http://www.seacoastonline.com/news/20160710/rye-students-death-raises-questions-about-safety-of-studying-abroad</p> <p>http://www.italianinsider.it/?q=node/2054</p>	
03/14/14 Friday	Aaron Plowman/ (24) California	Montana State University/ Undergrad, study abroad/ England	<p>England/ Fall/ Two students climbed the roof of a warehouse. When the roof collapsed, Aaron fell and died.</p> <p>http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/sdut-montana-state-student-dies-in-london-2014mar18-story.html</p> <p>https://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/montana_state_university/msu-student-dies-in-london-accident/article_87943f76-ae31-11e3-8de7-0019bb2963f4.html</p>	Aaron was a senior English major. He was one of fourteen students attending a professor-run 10-day “Shakespeare’s England” course.

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<p>04/07/14 Monday</p>	<p>Rachel Smylie/ (21) Michigan</p>	<p>University of Michigan/ CIEE/ Undergrad, study abroad, interim travel/ South Africa</p>	<p>Namibia/ Vehicular/ Rachel was traveling in a rented vehicle with four other study abroad students. They were going from South Africa to a national park in northern Namibia. News accounts did not provide details about the vehicle crashed, except to say that other students survived, but Rachel did not.</p> <p>https://www.michigandaily.com/news/university-student-killed-accident-while-studying-abroad-south-africa</p> <p>https://robleveridge.wordpress.com/2014/05/07/a-fathers-words-at-the-funeral-of-his-daughter/</p>	<p>Rachel was described as vivacious, engaging, outgoing, adventurous, and very smart, “a force field of joy.” She participated in church mission trips and volunteered to serve people with HIV/AIDS. After her first study abroad trip, she got a tattoo, a Swahili phrase, <i>Wamola ni moja</i>: We are all one. Her father said, “Rachel was on top of the world, with a full life ahead of her. It is not supposed to be this way...”</p>
<p>06/14?/14 Saturday</p>	<p>Kaitlin Goldstein/ (28) Massachusetts</p>	<p>Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)/ Students’ Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL)/ Graduate student, Research program/ India</p>	<p>Ladakh, India/ Fall/ Kaitlin was a competitive runner. She went jogging alone on a mountain trail. When she did not return to her housing, searchers looked for her for several days. Her body was found off the trail. Authorities concluded that she’d slipped on loose rock and fell into a ravine. Kaitlin’s date of death was unclear.</p>	<p>For her bachelor’s and master’s degree, Kaitlin studied architecture and engineering. While pursuing her doctorate, twice she was part of a team that won a White House energy efficiency research award. She was in India to participate in a workshop on energy and development,</p>

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			<p>http://news.mit.edu/2014/graduate-student-kaitlin-goldstein-dies-india</p> <p>https://www.inquisitr.com/1318703/mit-graduate-student-kaitlin-goldstein-found-dead-28-year-old-student-fell-off-cliff-in-india/</p> <p>http://tech.mit.edu/V134/N28/goldstein.html</p>	<p>organized by the MIT-affiliated Dalai Lama Center. Kaitlin was an “energy fellow” at the MIT Energy Initiative and the Martin Family Society for Sustainability. About her work, she said, “I am most gratified by the process of bringing together people of diverse backgrounds and skill sets, fostering truly interdisciplinary and integrated design”. Her brother said Kaitlin was “very caring and very smart...really passionate about helping poorer places out.”</p>
06/21/14 Saturday	Richard Fu/ (20) Taiwan	University of Illinois/ University of Illinois, College of ACES/ Undergrad, Study abroad/ Brazil	<p>Brazil/ Drowned/ Three students were swimming near Rio de Janeiro. One was able to swim to shore, and lifeguards rescued another. However, Richard was pulled into rough waters and presumed drowned. News reports do not say if his body was found.</p> <p>https://will.illinois.edu/news/story/u-of-i-student-missing-off-coast-of-brazil</p>	<p>Richard was a Crop Sciences major.</p>

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			http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2014-06-26/news/chi-u-of-i-student-dies-another-missing-in-separate-incidents-in-brazil-20140626_1_brazilian-embassy-brazilian-authorities-florianopolis	
06/23/14 Monday	Ashley Walls/ (29) Chicago, Illinois	University of Illinois/ University of Illinois/ Graduate student, Research program/ Brazil	<p>Brazil/ Medical event, illness/ Ashley became ill and was being flown from the hospital in Florianopolis to Sao Paulo. However, she did not survive transport. News accounts indicate Ashley died from bacterial meningitis.</p> <p> http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2014-06-26/news/chi-u-of-i-student-dies-another-missing-in-separate-incidents-in-brazil-20140626_1_brazilian-embassy-brazilian-authorities-florianopolis </p> <p> http://abc7chicago.com/news/u-of-i-grad-student-dies-of-bacterial-meningitis-in-brazil/142244/ </p>	<p>Ashley was a doctoral student in education, doing research in Brazil. Her family described her as an “exceptional human being, kind and loving, gave of herself unselfishly...the hardest working person I ever met.”</p>
07/06/14 Sunday	Adam Rice/ (21) California	University of California Berkeley/ International Summer School,	<p>England/ Vehicular/ Adam was in a car accident. His parents flew to England to be with him, but he</p>	<p>Adam was an American Studies major, who was also a skilled pianist, singer, actor and filmmaker. He aspired to</p>

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		University of Sussex/ Undergrad, study abroad/ England	<p>did not survive his injuries.</p> <p>http://www.dailycal.org/2014/07/08/uc-berkeley-student-adam-rice-dies-21/</p> <p>http://www.dailybreeze.com/2014/07/09/manhattan-beach-native-adam-rice-21-dies-in-england/</p> <p>http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/latimes/obituary.aspx?pid=171686865</p>	<p>be a director and editor. At college, Adam was active in Berkeley’s improvisation and sketch comedy group. Peers said, Adam “owned the stage...but outside [acting] he was totally humble.”</p>
07/14/14 Monday	Keaton (“Keater”) Klein/ (21) Nebraska	University of Nebraska-Lincoln/ UNL at Oxford/ Undergrad, study abroad, preprogram travel/ England	<p>Prague, Czech Republic/ Fall/ Keaton often watched the sunrise. Those who knew him speculated that he was on the rooftop of a five-story building to do just that when he fell. His death occurred during preprogram travel.</p> <p>http://www.omaha.com/news/nebraska/unl-student-who-died-during-trip-abroad-was-living-his/article_a2ac8977-3a56-54ec-a41f-725144e1c32d.html</p> <p>http://journalstar.com/news/local/911/friends-remember-unl-student-who-died-in-fall/article_74b07fa0-f1ea-5cd1-9da8-caf92ed42a62.html</p>	<p>Keaton was a business major, concentrating in accounting, and a member of Delta Tau Delta. Family described him as having a deep love for his family and friends, and also a “passion for adventure”. He believed he would be “living his dream” during study abroad. After that, he wanted to work in investment banking and run a hedge fund.</p>

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			http://journalstar.com/lifestyles/announcements/obituaries/klein-keaton-alan/article_14c0aa11-0709-5a1b-96b4-8e5b84983fa9.html	
07/14/14 Monday	Damion Wilkins/ (19) Virginia	Old Dominion University/ Tropical Pathology and Infectious Disease Association/ Peru	Peru/ Medical event, illness/ Damion was on a professor-run 1-week course. While hiking in a tropical forest, he collapsed. Though others were with him, no emergency services were available. Family was told Damion had suffered a fatal heart attack. https://pilotonline.com/news/local/health/mother-seeks-answers-in-son-s-study-abroad-death/article_19666a0e-9d02-5722-8d21-2e137182396c.html https://pilotonline.com/news/local/health/a-year-after-student-s-death-mother-still-seeks-answers/article_c14b3856-e2bd-5cb6-abde-b1bcf1b379af.html	Damion was a biology major who intended to go to medical school. Family described him as loving to “take care of people.” Damion’s obituary says, “The last thing he did was to dance with the tribal people of Peru and give out candy to the children”.
07/18/14 Friday	Haley Rue/ (19) Washington	Harvard/ Harvard Student Agencies/ Germany	Germany/ Drowned/ Haley fell into a whirlpool at the bottom of a waterfall. Three other students were witnesses. One student tried to save Haley and was rescued.	A sophomore student, Haley was traveling with Harvard’s “Let’s Go” travel guides as a researcher-writer. In this capacity, she had traveled through Austria, Hungary,

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			<p>http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2014/7/20/sophomore-rue-dies-abroad/</p> <p>https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/07/21/harvard-student-drowns-germany/GdXPhx7Va3NSHWIK8RayoJ/story.html</p> <p>http://www.businessinsider.com/harvard-student-dies-in-germany-2014-7</p>	<p>and Germany. Those who knew her spoke of her kindness, adventurous spirit, and love of writing.</p>
08/02/14 Saturday	Adam Hairston/ (22) Tennessee	University of Memphis/ same/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Argentina	<p>Argentina/ Fall/ Adam was on a balcony. He fell three-stories and died.</p> <p>http://www.wmcactionnews5.com/story/26191892/u-of-m-student-killed-during-balcony-fall-in-argentina</p> <p>http://www.dailyhelmsman.com/archives/fallen-tiger-remains-an-inspiration-among-many/article_2e50d73b-f3d0-59fb-ab0b-557e407b39ff.html</p> <p>http://www.highpointchapel.com/obituary/Adam-Michael-Hairston/Memphis-TN/1409005</p>	<p>Adam was an International Business major, with a focus on human rights. He a member of Alpha Lamda Delta, in his university's academic national honor society, and played on the U-Memphis rugby team. Family members said of Adam that he "never met a stranger," "came into this world loving it," and "helped anybody he came into contact with." Through the Boy Scouts, church mission trips, and local non-profits, Adam was an active volunteer. Friends said, "[Adam was] the kind of</p>

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				guy everyone went to for advice, and he gave great advice...if you [had] a five minute conversation he could change your day. If you [had] a conversation longer...he could change your life.”
09/05/14 Friday	Aaron Sofer (23) New Jersey	Rav Tzvi Yeshiva/ Same/ Undergrad, religious program/ Israel	Israel/ Possible medical event/ Aaron was hiking in a forest. He became separated from his friend and did not return to their housing. After five days of searching, his body was found. An investigation concluded that there was no foul play. Aaron did not have a cell phone. It was speculated that he could not call for help and died of dehydration. http://www.cnn.com/2014/08/28/world/meast/israel-missing-u-s-hiker/index.html http://www.jpost.com/National-News/Police-find-body-in-Jerusalem-suspect-it-may-be-missing-American-yeshiva-student-372667 https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2014/08/28/body-found-israel-matches-missing-american-	Aaron was a Yeshiva student in Israel.

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			hiker/14751197/	
09/05/14 Friday	Erica Hagan (22) Kentucky	Post-undergraduate internship/ Colegio Bautista School/ Chili	Chili/ Homicide, assault/ Erica was found naked in a bathtub with multiple blows to the head. A security guard was arrested, but there was no conviction. http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2768955/Chilean-police-arrest-university-security-guard-44-brutal-slaying-American-graduate-bludgeoned-death-bathtub.html https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/kentucky-teacher-likely-murdered-chilean-apartment-police-n199121	Erica was a recent graduate of Georgetown College in Kentucky, embarking on a post-graduation internship through an exchange program. As a student-teaching assistant, Erica was meant to work through the fall semester: “She wanted to help people...and went where she felt like she was most needed.” Erica blogged about her internship at <i>Donde en el Mundo?</i>
10/07/14 Friday	MacKenzie McDermott (20) Illinois	Truman State/ Universidad de Burgos/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Spain	Spain/ Medical event, illness/ MacKenzie had had a health problem earlier in the year. She began to feel sick, but medical treatment was not provided, and the family was not made aware of their daughter’s condition. http://tmn.truman.edu/blog/news/campus/student-dies-while-abroad/	MacKenzie was a double major, in anthropology and sociology, with an interest in women’s and gender studies and writing. Friends said she was a “good listener” who “could make anybody laugh.” MacKenzie hoped to become a writer.

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			http://tmn.truman.edu/blog/news/campus/student-dies-while-abroad/ http://fox2now.com/2014/10/31/scholarship-named-for-truman-state-student/	
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Non-lethal incidents during 2014:

- Sexual assaults
- Robberies
- Bus hijacking
- Car and bus accidents with injuries
- Bus accident with injuries and fatalities
- Civil unrest
- Ebola outbreak