

2015 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
2/17/15 Tuesday	Julia Lee/ (20) American citizen from Hong Kong	Tufts University/ University of Auckland/ Undergrad, study abroad, pre-program travel/ New Zealand	New Zealand/ Vehicular/ During pre-program travel, Julia and her parents were killed in a car accident. Her brother sustained serious injuries and died on February 23 rd . http://now.tufts.edu/articles/tufts-junior-and-parents-die-car-crash-new-zealand https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2015/02/19/tufts-student-parents-die-car-accident-new-zealand/MtRWvK79pVCidOd9dyk5LJ/story.html	Julia was said to be a person of “tremendous vibrancy and compassion,” a “conscientious, articulate and ambitious student.” She was a computer science major, who had recently decided to also major in economics. Julia and her family had traveled to New Zealand, where she was about to begin a study abroad program. Julia’s brother, who died six days later, had just been admitted to Tufts Class of ’19.
4/5/15 Sunday	Andrew Mogni/ (20) Illinois	University of Iowa/ John Cabot University/	Rome, Italy/ Homicide/ On January 14 th , shortly after arriving in Rome, Andrew was dining at a restaurant	Andrew was a finance and business analytics major, an “ambitious student, [who] also was a lovable goofball.” He was a

2015 Education Abroad Student Deaths

		<p>Undergrad, study abroad/ Italy</p>	<p>with friends. He left the restaurant alone. Forty-five minutes later he was found unconscious at the base of the Tiber River, having sustained a fall of 30 to 40 feet. Initially, police concluded that Andrew had suffered an accidental fall. However, his wallet, cell phone, and gold cross were missing. Moreover, his family reported his credit cards stolen and used. Andrew was in a coma for three months. In April, he was evacuated to a US hospital. However, he never regained consciousness and died shortly after his return. Police concluded that Andrew had been robbed (before or after being assaulted) and thrown from a bridge. A criminal investigation was opened, but the perpetrator has not been found.</p> <p>http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/glen-ellyn/news/ct-gle-man-hurt-in-rome-dies-folo-tl-0409-20150407-story.html</p> <p>http://www.thegazette.com/subject/news/university-of-iowa-student-dies-after-fall-while-studying-abroad-in-rome-20150406</p> <p>http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article</p>	<p>member of Sigma Nu fraternity. He enjoyed music, learned to play guitar and ukulele, and had begun to write his own songs. He volunteered every summer at a local muscular dystrophy camp.</p>
--	--	---	--	---

2015 Education Abroad Student Deaths

			e-3027912/Iowa-university-student-20-dies-nearly-three-months-attacked-way-home-party-Rome-thrown-40ft-bridge.html	
4/17/15 Friday	Jared Quirk/ (18) Massachusetts	Rockland High School/ Rockland High School/ High school student, high school program/ Greece	<p>Athens, Greece/ Medical event/ Jared was on the second day of a 10-day course in Greece and Italy. He collapsed and died suddenly. News accounts do not mention a cause of death or pre-existing condition. Jared's death occurred in front of sixty other students. Surviving students were brought home immediately.</p> <p>http://www.wcvb.com/article/rockland-high-school-student-dies-on-senior-trip-to-greece-1/8220886</p> <p>https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/regionals/south/2016/05/13/love-endures-for-late-rockland-teen/Hht00B5elVhz65jAc9dbr0/story.html</p> <p>https://www.necn.com/news/new-england/Student-Dies-While-on-School-Trip-300349621.html</p>	Jared was a high school senior. He loved spending time with family, camping, going to the beach, and playing epic board games. Family said, "Always with a smile on his face, [Jared] put his quick wit and great sense of humor to work often, making everyone around him laugh." Jared played for his high school basketball, golf and baseball teams, plus he was a member of National Honor Society and had been accepted to multiple universities. He had recently decided on Syracuse University, where he intended to major in finance and marketing.

2015 Education Abroad Student Deaths

<p>4/25/15</p>	<p>Allison (“Ally”) Willen/ (20) Ohio</p>	<p>Eckard College, Florida/ University of Otago/ Undergrad, study abroad/ New Zealand</p>	<p>New Zealand/ Drowned/ Students were on a four-day hike. Ally became separated from her peers. A storm swept into the area, causing the Young River to rise. Ally was swept into the river. Her body was found one week later.</p> <p>http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/05/akron_woman_missing_presumed_d.html</p> <p>http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ohio/obituary.aspx?pid=174802091</p> <p>http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3066736/Body-missing-Ohio-student-New-Zealand-national-park-river-near-clothes-backpack-one-week-went-hiking-excursion-friends.html</p>	<p>Ally was in her junior year as a Human Development and International Studies major. Family described her as a curious, compassionate, adventurous person who sowed the same in those around her. She spent her free time volunteering in the orphanages of Tanzania, Guatemala and Malawi. Her family called her an “old soul.”</p>
<p>5/5/15 Friday</p>	<p>Kate Vasconcellos/ (24) California</p>	<p>University of Southern California/ St. Andrew’s University/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Scotland</p>	<p>Scotland/ Medical event, illness/ Kate had had surgery for an infection, but was considered recovered. She complained of stomach pains, but did not receive medical attention. Her family says she died suddenly in her dorm room. An autopsy was being performed.</p>	<p>Kate was finishing her senior year in Scotland with a degree in Economics. Just the week before her death, Kate had presented her senior thesis on financial literacy around the world. In addition to her academic studies, Kate was passionate about musical theater.</p>

2015 Education Abroad Student Deaths

			<p>http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article20502111.html</p> <p>http://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2015/05/08/rocklin-mourning-womans-sudden-death-in-scotland-while-studying-abroad/</p> <p>http://www.lakeconews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=41927:kaitlyn-vasconcellos&catid=34:obits&Itemid=276</p>	<p>A “bubbly” person, “[Kate] did a great job of blending theater arts with high academics.”</p>
5/19/15 Tuesday	Briana Coleen McHam/ (20) Florida	Florida State University/ FSU International Program, Rabin Center/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Israel	<p>Israel/ Not available/ Briana went hiking in Masada with other students. She became separated from her group. When the group reached the tourist center, they realized Briana was no longer with them. An hour-and-a-half later, Briana was found dead in a ravine 26-feet from the path. The cause of death was unclear—dehydration, a fall, a medical event, some combination? When Briana’s body was returned to the US, it was said to be too late to do an autopsy. The Department of State had deferred to local authorities and a subsequent Israeli</p>	<p>Described as “soft-spoken” and someone you’d “tell your secrets to,” Briana was a criminal justice major who was “eager to graduate.” She dreamed of becoming an FBI agent and had chosen FSU’s program in Israel because it was focused on counter terrorism. Briana was planning to return to the US, graduate and participate in an internship with the Winston-Salem police department.</p>

2015 Education Abroad Student Deaths

			<p>death certificate did not give cause of death, rather said “pending lab tests.” The Israeli news agency Haaretz said the group leader who accompanied the students was not a licensed guide. Three students were permitted to hike down from Masada, even though the time was nearing 11am, when the trail would be closed for heat. Moreover, weather records from that day warned of record-setting temperatures of 100-degrees.</p> <p>http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/broward/article21493602.html</p> <p>http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3091167/Mystery-FSU-student-aspired-FBI-dead-ravine-historic-desert-fort-Israel.html</p> <p>http://miami.cbslocal.com/2016/02/03/mother-demands-answers-after-daughters-mysterious-death-in-israel/</p>	
7/14/15 Tuesday	Kinsey Fredericks- Bishow/ (20) New Jersey	Johnson & Wales University/ Ducasse Institute/	Paris, France/ Bacterial meningitis/ Kinsey became ill and rapidly fell into a coma. Kinsey’s family was called to Paris and informed that Kinsey was brain dead.	Kinsey attended Johnson and Wales University from 2012. She graduated Magna cum Laude, May of ’15, with a BS in Culinary Arts. At JWU, she was the 2014

2015 Education Abroad Student Deaths

		Post-undergrad, internship/ France	<p>She was removed from life support and died.</p> <p>http://obits.nj.com/obituaries/hunterdoncountydemocrat/obituary.aspx?pid=175405353</p> <p>http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/warren-county/index.ssf/2015/08/scholarship_honors_warren_hills_grad.html</p>	<p>Emeril Lagasse Scholarship recipient. Her “strong work ethic, drive to succeed and see things through” made her a perfect candidate for a six-week internship program at the Ducasse Institute in Paris. Kinsey’s ambition was to own a business and build community through food.</p>
7/17/15 Friday	Lauren Bajorak/ (20) Pennsylvania	Penn State/ Penn State-Altoona Technology TUV Nord/ Undergrad, internship/ Spain	<p>Seville, Spain/ Disputed, Fall versus Homicide/ There were no known witnesses to Lauren’s death. Authorities presumed she’d accidentally fallen from her housing’s balcony. However, she’d been texting her boyfriend, stating that she felt unsafe with her group leader. Spanish authorities were said to be investigating. Family believes Lauren’s death involved foul play.</p> <p>http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2015/07/penn_state_student_from_york_d.html</p> <p>http://www.phillyvoice.com/penn-state-senior-dies-after-fall-balcony-spain/</p>	<p>In high school, Lauren was an accomplished musician, having attended Interlochen International Music Camp. She played French horn for her high school and college orchestras. In college, Lauren was a finance major on the Dean’s List, minoring in music and Spanish. She was a certified scuba diver, and also enjoyed singing, dancing and being with family.</p>

2015 Education Abroad Student Deaths

<p>8/30/15 Sunday</p>	<p>Nicholas Upton/ (19) Connecticut</p>	<p>George Washington University/ University of Cape Town/ Undergrad, study abroad/ South Africa</p>	<p>South Africa/ Drowned/ Nick and five other students went swimming on South Africa's Wild Coast. Nick appeared to get into difficulty at the surfline and disappeared. Students attempted to rescue him, then call for help. Family felt that "the slow emergency response hindered rescue attempts", including "when students ran for help...the lodge didn't call police immediately." Nick's family raised \$83,000 through a GoFundMe campaign. With this money, they were able to fund helicopters. Five days later, Nick's body was found.</p> <p>http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/gwu-student-drowns-south-africa-studying-article-1.2345325</p> <p>http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ctpost/obituary.aspx?pid=175813118</p> <p>https://www.eastoncourier.com/27028/friends-and-teachers-remember-nick-upton/</p>	<p>Nick was an International Studies major, interested in foreign intelligence, especially African studies. Nick's father described his son as a "quiet leader" who had gotten his high school to offer credits for Swahili, which Nick then studied, online. Nick was a member of Kappa Alpha Order and GW's rowing team.</p>
<p>9/6/15</p>	<p>Deon Greene/</p>	<p>University of</p>	<p>Costa Rica/</p>	<p>Deon loved music. He loved to</p>

2015 Education Abroad Student Deaths

Monday	(21) North Carolina	North Carolina, Pembroke/ International Student Exchange Programs, The National University of Costa Rica/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Costa Rica	Drowned/ Witnesses said Deon entered the water, but did not surface. It was believe he was carried to sea by a riptide. After five days, Coast Guards located Deon’s body. Costa Rican authorities told Deon’s family, “The Costa Rican beaches are beautiful, but the waters are treacherous because of the riptides...[Your son] was the 87 th drowning by a tourist in Costa Rica this year”. http://wbtw.com/2015/09/09/uncp-student-reported-missing-while-studying-abroad-in-costa-rica/ http://abc11.com/news/north-carolina-student-missing-in-costa-rica-found-dead/978326/	sing and taught himself to play guitar and keyboard. In order to improve his Spanish, Deon accepted a grant to study with the International Student Exchange Programs. He planned to pursue a medical career.
9/25/15 Friday	Daniel Hollnsteiner/ (21) New York	University at Buffalo/ Monash University/ Undergrad, study abroad/ New Zealand	New Zealand/ Drowned/ Daniel was kayaking with 10 other students when strong winds and waves capsized their kayaks into freezing water. Another student (from London) also perished, plus nine students experienced and were treated for hypothermia. Rescuers retrieved survivors, plus the bodies of both students, saying that all	As a child, Daniel’s aunt said he was shy and quiet, but funny. His father said “We felt he was really blossoming in Australia...he loved traveling and meeting new people.” Daniel was a member of his high school’s National Honor Society. In college, he was a business major on the dean’s list, a member of Sigma Chi Omega

2015 Education Abroad Student Deaths

			<p>were wearing life jackets, but the water temperature was below 40-degrees. Charges have been brought against the kayaking company, citing New Zealand maritime, health and safety laws.</p> <p>http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/2-students-ny-london-die-kayaking-new-zealand-article-1.2375421</p> <p>https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/sep/28/nyc-student-who-died-in-new-zealand-was-senior-at/</p> <p>https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/industries/78190302/lake-tekapo-kayaking-tragedy-seven-charges-laid-against-hire-company</p>	<p>Fraternity, an avid golfer and soccer player.</p>
11/13/15 Friday	Nohemi ("Mimi") Gonzales/ (23) California	Cal State Long Beach/ Strate School of Design/ Undergrad, study abroad/ France	<p>Paris/ Homicide, terrorism/ Nohemi was dining in a restaurant when terrorists attacked Paris. Gunmen sprayed bullets into the restaurant where Cal State students were dining. Nohemi was killed at that location, along with 18 others. (In total, the Paris attacks resulted in 130 deaths and over 300 injuries, with a third of them serious injuries.)</p>	<p>Nohemi was an industrial design major in her senior year. She was also working as a teaching assistant. Along with three other students, Nohemi was chosen to study abroad in Paris. Family described Nohemi as "high-spirited...with big dreams." "She viewed the world with trust, openness, imagination and playfulness." Peers said Nohemi's</p>

2015 Education Abroad Student Deaths

			<p>http://www.daily49er.com/news/2015/11/16/obituary-nohemi-gonzalez-dies-at-23-while-studying-abroad-in-paris/</p> <p>http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-nohemi-gonzalez-20151204-pictures-photogallery.html</p> <p>https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/06/education/edlife/remembering-nohemi-gonzalez-a-year-later.html</p>	<p>strong work ethic meant she would sometimes “labor over projects all night long.” Her goal was to work in the aerospace industry.</p>
11/19/15 Thursday	Ezra Schwartz/ (18) Massachusetts	Maimonides Jewish High School graduate/ Yeshivat Ashreinu/ High school, mission program/ Israel	<p>Israel/ Homicide, terrorism/ Ezra had just delivered food to Israeli soldiers who were working at a conservation park. He was riding in a van that was stuck in traffic, on his way back to the religious school he attended for post-high school students. A gunman spray machine gun fire on a line of vehicles. Three people were killed and seven were wounded. (In some news accounts, five were killed and nine were wounded.)</p> <p>https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2015/11/19/boston-area-teenager-killed-attack-</p>	<p>Ezra had graduated from high school and was spending a gap year studying abroad in Israel. Those who knew Ezra described him as “just so sweet...he always had a smile on his face.”</p>

2015 Education Abroad Student Deaths

			israel/oj3L5gPkgPgLtYvJKTVJYI/story.html https://www.cnn.com/2015/11/20/middleeast/ezra-schwartz-profile/index.html https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2015/11/22/sharon-teen-killed-israel-remembered-funeral/mqXfqUBGOuw48shusZR4bL/story.html	
--	--	--	--	--

- Non-lethal incidents during 2015:
Sexual assaults
Motor vehicle accidents with injuries
Terrorism
Natural disaster