

2016 Education Abroad Student Deaths

| Death date/ Day of week | 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 |
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| 1/6/16 | Cameron Johnson/ (19) Oregon | Pepperdine University/ Pepperdine University/ Undergrad student, study abroad, interim travel/ Argentina | Banos, Ecuador/ Fall/ Cameron died during travel to Ecuador. News accounts carried few details, though the area where Cameron died is described as steep terrain with many waterfalls. http://www.malibutimes.com/news/article_6dbec616-ba3c-11e5-ba76-9ba6618b23cc.html http://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/2017/03/03/100000-scholarship-legacy-salems-cameron-johnson/98681026/ http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/statesmanjournal/obituary.aspx?pid=177295999 | As a high school student, Cameron was in National Honor Society and won a national science competition. In college, he was continuing to pursue science. To become fluent in Spanish, he was also engaged in a yearlong study abroad in Buenos Aires. Cameron was a member of Psi Upsilon fraternity and did volunteer work with underprivileged children. |
| 1/14/16 | Olivia Erhardt/ (20) Ohio | Columbia University/ Global Brigades/ Undergrad, mission program/ Honduras | Honduras/ Vehicular/ A bus was bringing homeward-bound Columbia and Barnard students from their humanitarian mission program to the airport. The bus stalled on an incline and rolled backwards off the road. It fell more than 260 feet. Three students died and twenty-five were | In high school, Olivia was a National Merit finalist. She participated in theater and volleyball. As a sophomore in college, Olivia was an aspiring scientist. She loved physics, was interested in medicine, and was a member of Columbia's |

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| | | | <p>injured.</p> <p>https://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/15/nyregion/3-columbia-students-killed-in-bus-crash-in-honduras.html?mtrref=www.google.com</p> <p>http://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/hamilton-county/cincinnati/report-mariemont-hs-grad-killed-during-humanitarian-mission-trip-to-honduras</p> | <p>Scientist and Engineers for a Better Society. She was also a creative writer on the staff of Columbia's student literary magazine.</p> |
| 1/14/16 | Daniella Moffson/ (21) New York | Barnard College/ Global Brigades/ Undergrad, mission program/ Honduras | <p>Honduras/ Vehicular/ A bus was bringing homeward-bound Columbia and Barnard students from their humanitarian mission to the airport. The bus stalled on an incline and rolled backwards off the road. It fell more than 260 feet. Three students died and twenty-five were injured.</p> <p>https://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/15/nyregion/3-columbia-students-killed-in-bus-crash-in-honduras.html?mtrref=www.google.com</p> <p>http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3402197/Family-mourns-Columbia-student-died-crash.html</p> | <p>Daniella was known for her commitment to family, friends and faith. She was in her junior year, a psychology major planning to become a pediatric oncologist. She was an active volunteer, including with an organization that supports children dealing with illness. A family friend said of Daniella, "She was just so quiet about her work, but so loud about life."</p> |
| 1/14/16 | Abigail Flanagan/ | Columbia University/ | <p>Honduras/ Vehicular/</p> | <p>Abigail was a PhD-trained nurse-practitioner and</p> |

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| | (45) New York | Global Brigades/ Graduate student, mission program/ Honduras | <p>A bus was bringing homeward-bound Columbia and Barnard students from their humanitarian mission to the airport. The bus stalled on an incline and rolled backwards off the road. It fell more than 260 feet. Three students died and twenty-five were injured.</p> <p>https://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/15/nyregion/3-columbia-students-killed-in-bus-crash-in-honduras.html?mtrref=www.google.com</p> <p>http://www.lohud.com/story/news/local/rockland/orangetown/2016/01/14/columbia-honduras-bus-crash-sparkill-victim/78782768/</p> | employee of Columbia's medical center. She had returned to school for pre-med studies. Amongst the survivors was Abigail's 19-year old son, Patrick, also a pre-med student. |
| 2/13/16 | Tomari Jackson/ (14) Georgia | North Cobb High School/ North Cobb High School International Studies Magnet Program/ High school student, school sponsored program/ Belize | <p>Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, Belize/ Drowned/ Thirty-two high school students were attending a one-week course in Belize. The group had just landed in the country, and students were taken on a swimming excursion to a river. As students returned to their bus, it was recognized that Tomari was missing. The next day, divers recovered his body. Tomari had been wearing a head mounted camera, which was initially believed to be lost. However, a local farmer found the camera, which was returned to Tomari's family via the U.S. State Department. The camera had</p> | Tomari had applied and been accepted into the North Cobb School for International Studies, where he was a freshman. He was described as quiet, but friendly and funny. Tomari was a talented flute player. He loved travel and was excited for his study abroad in Belize. |

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| | | | <p>recorded his drowning and is now evidence in a legal case.</p> <p>http://www.ajc.com/news/local/north-cobb-high-school-student-dies-field-trip-belize/OQCkZrkjMC6YWOeblGTSBL/</p> <p>http://abcnews.go.com/International/georgia-mother-sues-school-district-son-dies-class/story?id=46901672</p> <p>http://www.mdjonline.com/news/lawyer-students-video-footage-shows-his-death-was-preventable/article_9c6768be-2170-11e7-b5c8-83b0fbae0039.html</p> | |
| 2/19/16 Friday | Laniece Lenora Moore/ (15) New York | Thurgood Marshall High School/ Kids 'n Culture Inc., Explorica Inc./ High school mission program/ Tanzania | <p>Tanzania/ Drowned/ Thurgood Marshall High School students were recruited to attend a teacher-led academic enrichment program offered by Kids 'n Culture and Explorica Inc. While in Tanzania, students were housed in a hotel and tasked with delivering school supplies and rebuilding Nshara Ufundi Primary School, near Mount Kilimanjaro. On the last day of the program, Laniece drowned in the hotel swimming pool. A wrongful death case has been filed.</p> <p>http://www.nydailynews.com/new-</p> | <p>Laniece was in the Talented and Gifted program at her high school and was on track to graduate high school one year early. Described as a bubbly girl, who also paid attention to details, Laniece dreamed of becoming a pastry chef. She played trumpet, sang and danced. While on her study abroad, Laniece told her mother that she wished others could see how "material possessions don't mean as</p> |

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| | | | <p>york/manhattan/laniece-moore-family-reflects-drowned-teen-legacy-article-1.2544229</p> <p>https://nypost.com/2018/02/03/nonprofit-lied-to-us-about-our-daughters-death-on-trip-suit/</p> <p>https://www.courthousenews.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/explorica-drowning.pdf</p> <p>https://www.honoryou.com/programs/PDF/160305lm.pdf</p> | <p>much as love, friendship and equality.”</p> |
| 3/7/16 | Alexander (“Alex”) Fish/ (21) Wisconsin | University of Wisconsin-Madison/ CIEE/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Spain | <p>Barcelona/ Illness/ Alex became ill and died due to diabetic complications.</p> <p>http://www.dailycardinal.com/article/2016/03/uw-madison-student-dies-while-studying-abroad</p> <p>https://theweekly.wisc.edu/newsletter/be-in-the-know/new-post-for-campus-life-the-weekly-165/</p> <p>http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/jsonline/obituary.aspx?pid=178032965</p> | <p>In high school, Alex was a National Honor Society member, graduating high school with high honors, and also earning three letters in basketball. In college, Alex was an international business and financing major. He was on the Dean’s List, a member of Alpha Delta Phi fraternity, and active in other organizations on the Madison campus. His obituary said he was diagnosed with diabetes at the age of three and “never once complained about</p> |

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| | | | | the day to day challenges of managing blood sugar.” Friends described him as “a very genuine person.” |
| 3/??/16 | Colin Madsen/ (25) Missouri | Columbia College, previous student University of Missouri/ Irkutsk State Linguistic University/ Undergrad, initially in a study abroad program, then became a direct enroll student/ Russia | Arshan, Siberia/ Disputed: Unintentional Injury versus Intentional Injury-Homicide/ In 2013, Colin became a Russian language student at Irkutsk State Linguistic University, in Siberia. On March 27 th , in the middle of the night, Colin went missing from his language school. A search ensued. On April 4 th , Colin was found dead. Russian officials maintained that Alex had used drugs, wandered off and died from exposure, while Alex’s family was skeptical. For one thing, along with organizations like Greenpeace, Colin had participated in environmental peace protests. In the months before his death, he had been sent a warning letter by local authorities to stop his participation. Colin’s family asked the U.S. State Department for help learning the truth of what happened to their son. They were told, “[The State Department has] no power to conduct investigations on Russian territory.” The family hired an independent team of US-based forensic scientists who found suspicious marks on Colin’s body and no evidence of drugs. Forensic experts concluded that there was strong evidence suggesting | Colin was interested in languages, culture, travel and nature. He had attended Columbia College and University of Missouri. His interests took him to Siberia, where Colin became fluent in Russian. He also spoke Spanish and was learning Icelandic and Japanese. While in Russia, Colin volunteered with environmental groups in the Lake Baikal region. These groups were creating hiking trails and working to protect the area from development. Colin’s goal was a career in diplomacy. He was nearing his undergrad completion and was to attend graduate school at Cornell. |

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| | | | <p>Colin “was physically abused and died in the process.” His death likely occurred not long before his body was discovered. Colin’s family continues to seek assistance from the U.S. federal government.</p> <p>http://college.usatoday.com/2016/04/04/u-s-student-studying-in-siberia-found-dead/</p> <p>http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sedaliademocrat/obituary.aspx?pid=179608818</p> <p>http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3844324/Missouri-student-Colin-Madsen-Russian-authorities-say-froze-death-Siberia-taking-drugs-murdered-locals-thought-gay-distraught-mother-says.html</p> <p>https://www.rferl.org/a/american-hiker-colin-madsen-death-mystery-siberia-coverup-drugs-questions/28646402.html</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Iw0-V11CfY</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qs9WJahzBkc</p> | |
| 5/12/16 | Sue Nash/ (63) | Austin Peay State University/ | Spain/ Not Available/ | Sue was a retired Army veteran, having spent forty |

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| | Tennessee | Faculty led trip/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Spain | <p>Sue collapsed and died in customs in the Madrid airport. Under Spanish law, an autopsy was done. (We have been unable to locate further public information.)</p> <p>http://www.theleafchronicle.com/story/news/2016/06/02/apsu-student-dies-madrid-airport-while-study-abroad/85307500/</p> <p>http://www.theallstate.org/apsu-student-dies-on-study-abroad-trip/</p> | <p>years, first with the military policeman, and then in the insurance industry. She was returning to school and excited to be able to travel as a student. Sue was described as “sharp.” She always had “an answer,” was “colorful,” and had a hat for every occasion.</p> |
| 6/20/16 | Shannon Nuth/ (24) Maryland | Post-undergrad, pre-grad school, non-credit language program/ Antigua | <p>Guatemala/ Vehicular/ Shannon was attending a post-undergrad, non-credit language program. Her goal was to improve her Spanish language skills, which would support her volunteer work at a domestic violence shelter, and also aid her impending graduate student education in counseling psychology. Shannon had spent the weekend near Lake Atitlan. She was returning to Antigua, when the bus in which she was riding went out of control. The bus flipped multiple times and crashed. Shannon was thrown from the vehicle and killed instantly.</p> <p>https://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/04/business/study-abroad-programs-address-a-risk-road-fatalities.html</p> | <p>Shannon was a graduate of Marymount University in Virginia, where she was a Resident Assistant and a Criminal Justice major. Shannon’s volunteering included work at a domestic violence and sexual assault shelter. At the time of Shannon’s death, she had been accepted into grad school at the Chicago School of Psychology. She hoped to get her master’s and PhD in counseling.</p> |

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| | | | <p>http://www.beallfuneral.com/memsol.cgi?user_id=1816771</p> <p>http://www.kykernel.com/kernel_plus/unseen-dangers-of-study-abroad-might-be-just-around-the/article_b52229cc-97e9-11e6-9096-f7c77ca49a2f.html</p> | |
| 7/1/16 | Beau Solomon/ (19) Wisconsin | University of Wisconsin-Madison/ John Cabot University/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Italy | <p>Rome/ Intentional Injury-Homicide, drowned/ On Beau's first day in Rome, he went with fellow students to dinner. Beau never returned to student housing. It is believed that he was robbed, taken to the Tiber river and thrown in. Four days later, Beau's body was found. Surveillance video reveals that Beau tried to swim to shore. However, the river's current swept him under. Italian police arrested and jailed a local homeless man. The case against this man is ongoing.</p> <p>http://www.latimes.com/world/la-fg-italy-missing-student-suspect-20160705-snap-story.html</p> <p>http://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/beau-solomon-swim-falling-tiber-river-article-1.2703163</p> | Beau was a three-season athlete and loved all sports. He was quarterback for his high school football team. "An excellent student," he was active in both his church and politics. Beau was also a childhood cancer survivor. He aspired to attend law school and pursue a career in politics. |

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| | | | <p>https://www.thedailybeast.com/someone-is-targeting-american-students-abroad</p> <p>http://www.wkow.com/story/32378131/2016/07/Tuesday/uw-students-death-in-italy-follows-iowa-students-suspicious-fall</p> <p>http://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/b eau-solomon-swim-falling-tiber-river-article-1.2703163</p> | |
| 7/2/16 | Tarishi Jain/ (19) Indian national studying at UC Berkeley | UC Berkeley/ UC Berkeley and Eastern Bank Limited/ Undergrad, internship/ Bangladesh | Dhaka, Bangladesh/ Intentional Injury-Homicide, terrorism/ Tarishi was completing a student internship. On July 1 st , she was at a restaurant with friends when terrorists attacked. Thirty hostages were taken, including Tarishi and two other U.S.- based Emory University students, Abinta Kabir (18) and Faraaz Hossain (20). Because of Faraaz’s Pakistani heritage, he was told he could go free. However, Faraaz refused to abandon his friends. Over the next day, twenty hostages were killed, also two restaurant employees, two policeman, and five terrorists. Tarishi, Abinta and Faraaz took shelter in a bathroom. Tarishi called her father and said, “They are killing everyone here. I think we will be killed one by one.” When the three were found, they had been stabbed to death. | In addition to being an economics major, Tarishi was a member of the International Students Association. Her family said, “She was a vivacious girl. She had an international outlook and was ambitious.” |

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| | | | <p>https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia-pacific/indian-berkeley-student-among-the-dead-in-bangladesh-attack/2016/07/02/3d3b53ba-4060-11e6-9e16-4cf01a41decb_story.html?utm_term=.f97446827f7d</p> <p>http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/dhaka-attack-tarishi-jains-family-mourns-her-death-says-she-went-for-dinner-at-the-cafe/</p> <p>http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-fg-student-victims-dhaka-20160702-snap.htmlstory.html</p> <p>http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3672339/We-killed-one-one-student-killed-Dhaka-massacre-one-final-chilling-phone-call-say-goodbye-father-cowered-ISIS-terrorists-gunned-20.html</p> <p>http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/not-without-my-friends-how-faraaz-hossain-refused-to-leave-tarishi-jains-side-and-died-when-he-could-live/1/707511.html</p> <p>http://dailybruin.com/2017/06/02/ucla-students-continue-studying-abroad-despite-</p> | |
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| | | | recent-terror-attacks/ | |
| 7/14/16 | Nicolas Leslie/ (20) California | UC Berkeley/ UC Berkeley/ Undergrad, study abroad/ France | <p>Nice, France/ Intentional Injury-Homicide, terrorism/ Nicolas was attending a summer entrepreneurship program in France. During Nice’s Bastille Day celebration, a terrorist commandeered a 19-ton truck and drove into crowds of people, killing 83, including Nicolas.</p> <p>https://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/19/us/nicolas-leslie-berkeley-attack-nice.html? r=0</p> <p>http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/sdut-education-nice-terror-attack-nick-leslie-2016jul18-story.html</p> <p>http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/communities/north-county/sd-no-nick-leslie-20161223-story.html</p> <p>http://www.npr.org/2016/07/18/486507554/uc-berkeley-student-nicolas-leslie-killed-in-nice-france-attack</p> | <p>Born in Italy, Nicolas spoke fluent Italian. When Nicolas was a child, his family moved to southern California. He lived near the ocean and learned to surf and scuba dive. In high school, he was captain of his high school debate team. He was a business major who loved to fish and cook. Friends said, “He brought unparalleled energy and liveliness and charisma.”</p> |
| 10/4/16 | Sharon Gray/ (31) California | UC Davis/ UC Davis and The Netherlands Institute of Ecology/ | <p>Addis Ababa/ Intentional Injury-Homicide, civil unrest/ Sharon Gray and Professor Siobhan Brady were traveling via car through an area where anti-government protests had resulted in 55</p> | <p>As a “postdoc,” Sharon was a student who had finished her academic courses, but was still collecting research data for her doctoral dissertation, i.e., she</p> |

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| | | Post-doc, research program/ Ethiopia | <p>deaths the weekend before. Sharon was killed when a rock was thrown through the car window.</p> <p>https://www.cbsnews.com/news/sharon-gray-uc-davis-researcher-killed-stone-ethiopia-mourned-california/</p> <p>http://www.davisenterprise.com/local-news/ucd-researcher-killed-by-ethiopian-protesters/</p> <p>http://www.kcra.com/article/uc-davis-devastated-over-researcher-s-death-in-ethiopia/6502700</p> | <p>was not yet a professor. Sharon was traveling with and conducting research with Professor Brady. A National Science Foundation winner, Sharon's area of research was the effect of climate change on plant biology. She and Brady were in Addis Ababa for a meeting to launch a research project. Peers said, "[Sharon] was a passionate scientist...she was going to feed the world."</p> |
| 10/1/16 | Frank Anderson/ (22) Florida | University of Mississippi/ Ole Miss Chinese Flagship Program, in partnership with Nanjing University/ Undergrad, study abroad/ China | <p>Shanghai/ Not Available/ At the time Frank's death was reported, the cause was said to be "under investigation." (We have been unable to find follow-up information.)</p> <p>http://www.fox13memphis.com/news/ole-miss-student-dies-while-studying-abroad/454315365</p> <p>http://thedmonline.com/university-mourns-student-death-china/</p> | <p>Frank took his first class in Chinese when he was in high school. He did not do well and his teacher recommended he drop the course. However, Frank pursued Chinese in high school and at U-Mississippi. He founded a non-profit organization "to develop deep and meaningful relationships among Chinese and non-Chinese university students." Frank was a 5th year student, completing a post-graduate</p> |

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| | | | http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/orlandoseninel/obituary.aspx?pid=182202467 | capstone project in China. |
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Non-lethal incidents during 2016:

Intentional Injury-Civil Unrest

Intentional Injury-Terrorism

Illness—Zika

Sexual assaults

Trial and incarceration