

2002 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
6/9/02	KiShawnda McRoyal/ (21) Illinois	Howard University/ University of Legon/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Ghana, West Africa	Ghana, West Africa/ Illness/ KiShawnda was beginning her senior year when she traveled to Ghana for a study abroad. She became ill and died shortly after her return. http://www.angelfire.com/in4/nsaa/history.html http://www.angelfire.com/in4/nsaa/KM-ScholarshipApp.pdf http://www.angelfire.com/in4/nsaa/scholarship.html https://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-1487449.html	KiShawnda had served as a resident assistant at Howard. She was also a dancer with Howard's African dance group and Nsaa Dance Ensemble. On the Dean's List and an Annenberg Scholar, KisShawnda was majoring in television production. She said her mission was to "uphold the excellence and essence of movement, and to carry the spirit that had sustained and liberated her ancestors." KiShawnda hoped to become a film director.
7/22/02	David Byrd-Felker/ (20) Wisconsin	Beloit College/ Beloit College/ Undergrad, study abroad, post-program travel/	Ecuador/ Not available, missing since 2002/ During David's sophomore year, he was enrolled in an undergrad study abroad through Beloit College. He spent the summer studying two	David was a Presidential Scholar at Beloit College, majoring in Spanish and Philosophy. He loved Shakespeare and was the founder of a comedy improv

		Quito, Ecuador	<p>languages, Spanish and German, plus Spanish literature. On the 22nd, David went hiking in the southern region of Ecuador, in an area called <i>el Oriente</i>. He did not return to his housing. On August 12th, David's family went to the airport to pick him up, however he was not on the plane. The family flew to Ecuador; they were told that a boy matching their son's description arrived in Zamora on the 22nd. He checked into a local hotel, then left with his backpack and did not return. David's mother remained to look for him. Ultimately she said, "Thus far I have been told my son could have fallen from a high place, been bitten by a snake, swallowed by an anaconda, drowned/pulled under a whirlpool, swept downstream and found, then buried in an Indian ceremony, attacked by some wild animal, frozen in place as he sat somewhere at nightfall...[there are] many ways to die here."</p> <p>http://archive.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/sons-disappearance-keeps-drawling-parents-to-ecuador-kl669ef-163297276.html/</p>	<p>troupe at Beloit. In the aftermath of David's presumed death, his family set up a non-profit, David's Educational Opportunity Fund, to provide education funds for poor families in Quito.</p>
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2002 Education Abroad Student Deaths

			https://davidsefund.org/davids-story/	
7/31/02	Marla Bennett/ (24) California	Pardes Institute and Hebrew University/ Graduate student, direct enroll, language program/ Israel	<p>Jerusalem/ Intentional Injury, Homicide, terrorism/ Students were gathered in the university cafeteria when a bomb exploded. This bombing took place during the university's summer examination period. Nine people, including five Americans, were killed, plus about 100 people were injured. Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack. Attacking students in an academic setting drew condemnation from many groups, including the United Nations. In the aftermath, Hebrew University added metal detectors and bomb sniffing dogs. Israel also adopted a strategy of demolishing houses belonging to suicide bombers.</p> <p>http://www.nytimes.com/2002/08/02/world/death-on-the-campus-the-victims-maelstrom-swallows-5-americans-on-a-quest.html</p>	Marla had graduated from the University of California. She was enrolled in a language course at Hebrew University.

2002 Education Abroad Student Deaths

			<p>http://www.nytimes.com/2002/08/02/world/death-on-the-campus-the-university-a-blow-to-security-and-to-tolerance.html</p> <p>https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/2002/08/02/a-world-of-ideals-beckoned-victims/e74d4f22-3b0a-4d2a-a739-8355451f5c68/?utm_term=.8b18f2cb37e0</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_University_bombing</p>	
7/31/02	Benjamin Blutstein/ (25) Pennsylvania	Pardes Institute and Hebrew University/ Post-undergrad, direct enroll, language program/ Israel	Jerusalem/ Intentional Injury, Homicide, terrorism/ Students were gathered in the university cafeteria when a bomb exploded. This bombing took place during the university's summer examination period. Nine people, including five Americans, were killed, plus about 100 people were injured. Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack. Attacking students in an academic setting drew condemnation from	A graduate of Dickinson College, Benjamin was an aspiring teacher. He was interested in philosophy and language. Benjamin also played drums, enjoyed hip-hop music, and was working as a disc jockey as "Benny the B." Ben's family said he had a promising future.

			<p>many groups, including the United Nations. In the aftermath, Hebrew University added metal detectors and bomb sniffing dogs. Israel also adopted a strategy of demolishing houses belonging to suicide bombers.</p> <p>http://www.legacy.com/Obituaries.asp?Page=LifeStory&n=Benjamin-Thomas-Blutstein&personID=426420</p> <p>http://www.nytimes.com/2002/08/02/world/death-on-the-campus-the-victims-maelstrom-swallows-5-americans-on-a-quest.html</p> <p>http://www.nytimes.com/2002/08/02/world/death-on-the-campus-the-university-a-blow-to-security-and-to-tolerance.html</p> <p>https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/2002/08/02/a-world-of-ideals-beckoned-victims/e74d4f22-3b0a-4d2a-a739-8355451f5c68/?utm_term=.8b18f2cb37e0</p>	
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2002 Education Abroad Student Deaths

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7/31/02	Janis ("Yonit") Ruth Coulter/ (36) New York	University of Denver/ Hebrew University/ Graduate student, research program/ Israel	<p>Jerusalem/ Intentional Injury, Homicide, terrorism/ Janis had arrived in Jerusalem one day before the cafeteria bombing. She was having lunch with 19 American students and was meant to accompany them to their classes. When a bomb exploded, nine people were killed, including five Americans. About 100 people were injured. Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack. Attacking students in an academic setting drew condemnation from many groups, including from the United Nations. In the aftermath, Hebrew University also added metal detectors and bomb sniffing dogs.</p>	<p>When Janis converted to Judaism she chose a new name for herself, Yonit, meaning "little dove," a symbol of peace. She was a graduate student from the University of Denver, doing research at Hebrew University. Janis was about to finish her master's thesis on the Book of Ruth.</p>

2002 Education Abroad Student Deaths

			<p>Israel also adopted a strategy of demolishing houses belonging to suicide bombers.</p> <p>http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Victims/Pages/Janis%20Ruth%20Coulter.aspx</p> <p>http://www.nytimes.com/2002/08/02/world/death-on-the-campus-the-university-a-blow-to-security-and-to-tolerance.html</p> <p>https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/2002/08/02/a-world-of-ideals-beckoned-victims/e74d4f22-3b0a-4d2a-a739-8355451f5c68/?utm_term=.8b18f2cb37e0</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_University_bombing</p>	
7/31/02	David Gritz/ (24) Massachusetts	Hebrew University/ Graduate student, language program/ Israel	Jerusalem/ Intentional Injury, Homicide, terrorism/ Students were gathered in the university cafeteria when a bomb exploded. This bombing took place during the university's summer	David had dual American and French citizenship. He had also studied at McGill University and the Sorbonne. David was interested in music and could play the piano, violin and guitar. He had come to

			<p>examination period. Nine people, including five Americans, were killed, plus about 100 people were injured. Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack. Attacking students in an academic setting drew condemnation from many groups, including the United Nations. In the aftermath, Hebrew University added metal detectors and bomb sniffing dogs. Israel also adopted a strategy of demolishing houses belonging to suicide bombers.</p> <p>http://www.nytimes.com/2002/08/02/world/death-on-the-campus-the-victims-maelstrom-swallows-5-americans-on-a-quest.html</p> <p>http://www.nytimes.com/2002/08/02/world/death-on-the-campus-the-university-a-blow-to-security-and-to-tolerance.html</p> <p>https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/2002/08/02/a-world-of-ideals-beckoned-victims/e74d4f22-3b0a-4d2a-a739-8355451f5c68/?utm_term=.8b18f2c</p>	<p>Jerusalem to study the Hebrew language and Jewish thought.</p>
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2002 Education Abroad Student Deaths

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8/1/02	Whitney Mayson Boyer/ (20) Georgia	University of Georgia/ University of New Orleans/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Italy	<p>Cinqueterre, Italy/ Fall/ Whitney was with University of New Orleans's study abroad program, which began its course at their headquarters in Innsbruck, Austria, and ultimately traveled to Italy. While climbing a cliff in the Mediterranean coastal region of Cinque Terre, Whitney slipped and fell. She died of her injuries. UGA's communications officer said, "From all the preliminary evidence, this was a very sad accident. I don't think it implicates study abroad as dangerous. This is just a tragic accident." Surviving students were returned to the program's headquarters in Austria.</p> <p>http://onlineathens.com/stories/080302/uga_20020803011.shtml#.We1o2BNSyCR</p>	Whitney was a third-year student majoring in landscape architecture.
9/13/02	Jill Curran/	Santa Clara	London/	Jill was a marketing major at

2002 Education Abroad Student Deaths

	(20) Washington	University/ Syracuse University Division of International Education/ Undergrad, study abroad/ London	<p>Vehicular/ On September 10th, Jill was walking a London sidewalk. When she stepped off a curb, the passenger-side mirror of a moving bus hit her. She was rendered unconscious and taken to a hospital. Tests revealed that she had lost brain function. Shortly after the incident, Jill's parents flew to London. Their daughter died three days later.</p> <p>http://dailyorange.com/2002/09/santa-clara-student-dies-while-studying-at-su-dipa-center/</p> <p>http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/seattletimes/obituary.aspx?n=jill-lynn-curran-jilly-bean&pid=501622</p>	<p>Santa Clara University and had been recently accepted into SCU's Retail Management Institute. Jill was an accomplished athlete who loved hiking, biking, tennis and fly-fishing. She was a member of Delta Gamma Sorority, and an active volunteer with underprivileged youth programs, the Human Society, and various sports-related organizations.</p>
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Non-lethal incidents in 2002:
Sexual harassment and assaults
Vehicular—boating
Robbery