

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 |
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| 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/ Julia and her family were on their way to Julia's study abroad when they were in a car accident. Julia and her parents were killed. Her brother sustained serious injury 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 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/ Intentional Injury-Homicide/ On January 14 th , shortly after arriving in Rome, Andrew was dining at a | Andrew was a finance and business analytics major, an "ambitious student, [who] also was a lovable goofball." He was a |

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| | | Undergrad, study abroad/ Italy | <p>restaurant 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, family reported his credit cards had been stolen and used. Andrew was in a coma for three months. In April, he was evacuated to a US hospital, but never regained consciousness. Andrew died shortly after returning home. Police concluded that, before or after being assaulted, Andrew had been robbed. He was then 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>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> |
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| | | | http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-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/ Illness (presumed)/ 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/Hht0OB5elVhz65jAc9dbr0/story.html</p> <p>https://www.necn.com/news/new-england/Student-Dies-While-on-</p> | <p>Jared was a high school senior. He loved spending time with family, camping, going to the beach, and playing epic board games. Jared played basketball, golf and baseball for his high school. He was also 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. Family said of Jared, "Always with a smile on his face, he put his quick wit and great sense of humor to work often, making everyone around him laugh."</p> |

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| | | | School-Trip-300349621.html | |
| 4/25/15 | Allison ("Ally") Willen/ (20) Ohio | Eckard College, Florida/ University of Otago/ Undergrad, study abroad/ New Zealand | New Zealand/ Drowned/ Ally was on a four-day hike with fellow students. She 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. http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/05/akron_woman_missing_presumed_d.html http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ohio/obituary.aspx?pid=174802091 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 | Ally was in her junior year as a Human Development and International Studies major. She spent her free time volunteering in the orphanages of Tanzania, Guatemala and Malawi. Family described her as an "old soul," a curious, compassionate, adventurous person who encouraged the same in those around her. |
| 5/5/15 Friday | Kate Vasconcellos/ (24) California | University of Southern California/ St. Andrew's University/ Undergrad, study | Scotland/ Illness/ Kate had had surgery for an infection, but was considered recovered. She complained of stomach pains, but did not receive medical attention. Her | 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 |

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| | | abroad/ Scotland | <p>family says she died suddenly in her dorm room. An autopsy was being performed.</p> <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>her academic studies, Kate was passionate about musical theater. 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 student’s reached a 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 hiking path. The cause of death was unclear—dehydration, a fall, a medical event, some combination? When Briana’s</p> | <p>Described as “soft-spoken” and someone you could “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-</p> |

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| | | | <p>body was returned to the US, it was deemed too late to do an autopsy. The Department of State had deferred to local authorities and a subsequent Israeli 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. Moreover, three students were permitted to hike down from Masada, even though the time was nearing 11am, when the trail would be closed for heat. 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> | Salem police department. |
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| <p>7/14/15 Tuesday</p> | <p>Kinsey Fredericks- Bishow/ (20) New Jersey</p> | <p>Johnson & Wales University/ Ducasse Institute/ Post-undergrad, internship/ France</p> | <p>Paris, France/ Illness/ Kinsey became ill and rapidly fell into a coma. Kinsey’s family was called and informed that Kinsey had developed bacterial meningitis and was brain dead. Her parent’s flew to Paris, whereupon Kinsey 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>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 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> |
| <p>7/17/15 Friday</p> | <p>Lauren Bajorak/ (20) Pennsylvania</p> | <p>Penn State/ CIEE and Alter Technology TUV Nord/ Undergrad study abroad, plus simultaneous internship/ Spain</p> | <p>Seville, Spain/ Fall, of disputed origin/ Lauren died due to a fall from a 10th floor balcony. Spanish authorities presumed she’d accidentally fallen and were reported to be investigating. Lauren’s family believes a thorough and transparent accounting of what happened to their daughter is warranted.</p> | <p>Lauren was an accomplished musician. She played French horn for her high school and college orchestras and had attended Interlochen International Music Camp. 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 spending time with family.</p> |

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| | | | <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>https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/york/obituary.aspx?n=lauren-n-bajorek&pid=175464984&fhid=28191</p> | |
| 8/30/15 Sunday | Nicholas Upton/ (19) Connecticut | George Washington University/ University of Cape Town/ Undergrad, study abroad/ South Africa | South Africa/ Drowned/ Nick and five other students went swimming on South Africa's Wild Coast. At the surf-line, Nick appeared to get into difficulty, then disappear. Students attempted to rescue him, but realized they could not. They went to the lodge to call for help, but "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. | 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. |

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| | | | <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> | |
| 9/6/15 Monday | Deon Greene/ (21) North Carolina | University of North Carolina, Pembroke/ International Student Exchange Programs, The National University of Costa Rica/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Costa Rica | <p>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 87th drowning by a tourist in Costa Rica this year."</p> <p>http://wbtw.com/2015/09/09/uncp-student-reported-missing-while-studying-abroad-in-costa-rica/</p> <p>http://abc11.com/news/north-</p> | Deon loved music. He loved to sing and taught himself to play guitar and keyboard. He planned to pursue a medical career. In order to improve his Spanish, Deon accepted a grant to study with the International Student Exchange Programs. |

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| | | | carolina-student-missing-in-costa-rica-found-dead/978326/ | |
| 9/25/15 Friday | Daniel Hollnsteiner/ (21) New York | University at Buffalo/ Monash University/ Undergrad, study abroad/ New Zealand | <p>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 were wearing life jackets, but the water temperature was below 40-degrees. Charges were 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/indu</p> | 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 Fraternity, an avid golfer and soccer player. |

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| | | | stries/78190302/lake-tekapo-kayaking-tragedy-seven-charges-laid-against-hire-company | |
| 11/13/15 Friday | Nohemi ("Mimi") Gonzales/ (23) California | Cal State Long Beach/ Strate School of Design/ Undergrad, study abroad/ France | Paris, France/ Intentional Injury-Homicide, terrorism/ Nohemi was dining in a restaurant when terrorists attacked. Gunmen sprayed bullets into the restaurant where Cal State students were dining. Nohemi was killed, along with 18 others at that location. (In total, the Paris attacks resulted in 130 deaths and over 300 injuries, with a third of the injuries deemed serious.) http://www.daily49er.com/news/2015/11/16/obituary-nohemi-gonzalez-dies-at-23-while-studying-abroad-in-paris/ http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-nohemi-gonzalez-20151204-pictures-photogallery.html https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/06/education/edlife/remembering-nohemi-gonzalez-a-year-later.html | 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 strong work ethic meant she would sometimes "labor over projects all night long." Her goal was to work in the aerospace industry. |
| 11/19/15 | Ezra Schwartz/ | Maimonides | Israel/ | Ezra had graduated from high |

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| <p>Thursday</p> | <p>(18) Massachusetts</p> | <p>Jewish High School graduate/ Yeshivat Ashreinu/ High school, mission program/ Israel</p> | <p>Intentional Injury-Homicide, terrorism/ Ezra had just delivered food to Israeli soldiers who were working at a conservation park. On the way back to his religious school, the van Ezra was riding in became stuck in traffic. When a gunman sprayed machine gun fire on the 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-israel/oJ3L5gPkgPgLtYvJKTVJYI/story.html</p> <p>https://www.cnn.com/2015/11/20/middleeast/ezra-schwartz-profile/index.html</p> <p>https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2015/11/22/sharon-teen-killed-israel-remembered-funeral/mqXfqUBGOuw48shusZR4bL/story.html</p> | <p>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> |
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Non-lethal incidents during 2015:

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Motor vehicle accidents with injuries

Intentional Injury-Terrorism

Natural disaster

Sexual assaults