

2018 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
3/18/18 Sunday	Mark Dombroski (19) Pennsylvania	St. Joseph University (Philadelphia)/ St. Joseph University/ Undergrad, sports program/ Bermuda	Bermuda/ Fall/ Mark was a freshman student-athlete at Saint Joseph’s University, traveling to compete for his school in an international rugby tournament. He played his last game on Saturday. That evening, he went to a local bar. At the time of his departure, witnesses said Mark was not inebriated. Rather, because Mark had sustained a shoulder injury in that day’s game, he “wanted to get going [home].” On Sunday, a family member who had traveled to Bermuda to see the game notified local police that Mark was had not returned to student housing. On Monday, Mark was found dead at the bottom of a dry moat at a former British infantry garrison. It appeared Mark had fallen approximately 35 feet. Surveillance video from early Sunday showed Mark walking alone. His wallet and cell phone were with him. Local police have not been able to identify how or why Mark fell.	Mark was described as a friendly person, “lit from within.” A gifted athlete, he served as co-captain of his high school football and rugby teams. He also medaled in spring track. Mark was recruited for rugby by a number of universities, including St. Joseph, playing varsity as a freshman. Mark was active in his church and had traveled to Appalachia to build and renovate homes.

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			<p>https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/20/us/bermuda-student-mark-dombroski.html</p> <p>https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/22/americas/us-student-found-dead-in-bermuda/index.html</p> <p>http://www.newsweek.com/mark-dombroski-cause-death-autopsy-results-released-missing-philadelphia-857868</p>	
3/30/18	Jacob ("Jack") Gustafson (20) Wisconsin	Grinnell College/ IES Abroad/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Germany	<p>Freiberg, Germany/ Not available/ Jack died while in a hospital.</p> <p>https://www.iesabroad.org/news/tribute-jacob-gustafson#sthash.vwbgxPas.dpbs</p> <p>https://madison.com/news/local/obituar-ies/gustafson-jacob-russell-jack/article_d2bcaa4e-070c-5393-baaf-104b128acaf9.html</p> <p>https://www.grinnell.edu/news/special-campus-memo-condolences</p>	In high school Jack had been a track and fielder with an interest in discus and shotput. He was also adept at ceramics. At Grinnell, he was a psychology major and honor student. Jack had been accepted to an upcoming psychology internship at the Mayo Clinic. Described by family as "smart, strong and kind," Jack had been traveling in Europe and having a "nothing less than a joyous experience."
5/11/18	Alicia Gonzalez	Wake Forest	Salamanca, Spain/	Alicia was a psychology major

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Friday	(20) North Carolina	University (North Carolina)/ Wake Forest University/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Spain	<p>Not available/ Alicia had completed classes for Wake Forest University's semester abroad in Spain. On the day Alicia died, students found her not breathing and lying in a street. Emergency services were called. First responders were able to resuscitate Alicia and transfer her to a local hospital. However, she suffered several more cardiac arrests and subsequently died. Spanish authorities ordered an autopsy. News reports indicate that foul play was not suspected.</p> <p>https://inside.wfu.edu/2018/05/alicia-gonzalez/</p> <p>http://www.journalnow.com/news/local/wake-forest-student-dies-in-spain/article_1fa03e06-2589-52ec-8fa9-73aff4ceb84b.html</p> <p>https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/alicia-gonzalez-obituary?pid=189017280</p> <p>https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/charlotte-nc/alicia-gonzalez-7851737?filter=family#remembering</p>	at Wake Forest.
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<p>6/16/18</p>	<p>Elmer Arrieta (27) Texas</p>	<p>Texas Tech/ University of Texas-Austin and Irkutsk State Linguistic University/ Graduate student study abroad/ Russia</p>	<p>Olkhon Island in eastern Siberia/ Fall/ On June 15th, Elmer was one of twenty students on a hiking excursion to Olkhon Island, in the center of Lake Baikal. During the hike, Elmer fell, sustained serious injuries and subsequently died.</p> <p>http://www.kcbd.com/story/38440559/texas-tech-architecture-graduate-student-dead-after-fall-in-eastern-siberia</p> <p>https://www.statesman.com/news/local/breaking-student-dies-after-fall-study-abroad-trip-russia/RySIKiqXhVXEf2zx1xqUjN/</p>	<p>Elmer had obtained his bachelor's degree in architecture. He was a graduate student at Texas Tech's school of architecture. Elmer's sister described him as caring, intelligent, and adventurous, with a love of school and travel. He enjoyed soccer and played for a Lubbock team. Peers described Elmer as the kind of friend who "always had your back."</p>
<p>7/15/18 Sunday</p>	<p>Fatima Breton (57) Massachusetts</p>	<p>University of Massachusetts, Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies/ U-Mass, Boston/ Graduate student/ Ecuador</p>	<p>Ecuador/ Illness/ Fatima was attending a study abroad course about cross-border conflict resolution. While on a school-sponsored hike, she began feeling ill, including having pain in her arm and leg. When Fatima returned to her room, she fainted. CPR was done, however Fatima died. Family reported that she'd suffered a "major heart attack." From existing reportage, it is unclear what role inadequate medical care</p>	<p>Fatima had a long career history with the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. Much of her work was focused on victims and victim advocacy, especially with youth advisory boards and other community engagement. She also worked as a legislative liaison with child-protective services. Fatima was described as</p>

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			<p>played.</p> <p>https://www.boston.com/news/local-news/2018/07/17/massachusetts-grad-student-dies-on-school-trip-to-ecuador</p> <p>https://patch.com/massachusetts/boston/umass-boston-student-dies-school-trip-ecuador</p> <p>http://www.eagletribune.com/news/haverhill/haverhill-woman-remembered-as-giving-and-kind/article_5f732ffc-eae8-5a08-870b-3cf3a9e93ea6.html</p>	<p>“caring but no-nonsense,” “very giving, very sweet, very kind and willing to do anything to serve the community and just make the future brighter.”</p>
7/29/18 Sunday	TeNiya Jones (19) Florida	University of Kentucky/ CIEE (Maine)/ Undergraduate student, study abroad, interim travel/ Amman, Jordan	<p>Tel Aviv, Israel/ Drowned/ TeNiya was enrolled in a 7-week summer-abroad course focused on language acquisition. On her last weekend abroad, TeNiya traveled with fellow students from Jordan to Israel. Students went for an evening swim at a Tel Aviv beach. Three were caught in rip currents. While two were able to make it to shore, TeNiya was pulled out to sea. Students called Israeli officials and a “major search and rescue effort” ensued. The University initially reported that the search was unsuccessful. However, on Monday, TeNiya’s body</p>	<p>As a high school student, TeNiya was an award winning track-and-field athlete. In college, TeNiya was a biology and Islamic studies major. One of her professors described TeNiya as “very ambitious and committed to learning everything she possibly could about her courses...She constantly exceeded any expectation placed in front of her...She was very insightful about how cultural assumptions</p>

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			<p>washed to shore, just days before she was scheduled to return home. For TeNiya's family, her death was an extraordinary double tragedy, as just the year before her brother had been killed by homicide.</p> <p>https://www.news-press.com/story/news/local/2018/07/30/missing-fort-myers-teen-teniya-jones-found-dead-drowned-israel/864380002/</p> <p>https://abcnews.go.com/International/american-college-student-missing-swimming-israel/story?id=56908089</p> <p>https://www.kentucky.com/news/local/education/article215756465.html</p>	<p>informed how we understood the world." TeNiya had recently be accepted into U-K's pre-med program.</p>
8/?/18	Sama Mundlay (20) India and California	Wellesley/ Vrije Universitat/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Amsterdam	<p>Amsterdam/ Vehicular/ Sama had recently arrived for study abroad orientation. She was killed in a "heavy traffic accident." (Unable to locate further information.)</p> <p>https://www.wellesley.edu/about/president/speeches/node/157991</p> <p>https://medium.com/@smundlay</p>	<p>An international relations and history major, in a 2016 essay published in <i>Medium</i>, Sama wrote, "The strongest case for women's colleges is that they allow more resistance to that nagging inner voice, the one that coaxes the docile, unconfident woman your culture wants you to be." Wellesley president Paula Johnson, at the school's</p>

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			https://www.thecut.com/2016/11/students-at-clintons-alma-mater-react-to-election-night.html https://smundlay.myportfolio.com/sama-the-super-mouse	September '18 convocation, referred to Sama as "brilliant."
9/23/18	Ryan Turney (21)	University of North Carolina, Wilmington/ Undergraduate, study abroad, interim travel/ Bangkok, Thailand	<p>Hanoi, Viet Nam/ Unintentional injury/ Ryan was on interim travel in Hanoi. While there, he went out for drinks with fellow students. Shortly thereafter, Ryan collapsed and died. His family believes the cause of death was methanol poisoning. In the aftermath of Ryan's death, his family has worked to increase awareness about methanol poisoning as a "silent epidemic in Southeast Asian and Mexico." (In the manufacture of alcohol, methanol is meant to burn off. However, in countries where manufacturing is not regulated, bootleggers may use production shortcuts to save money. Meanwhile, for fear of adversely impacting local tourism, governments may deny unsafe alcohol as a problem, which means travelers may not know about tainted alcohol until it directly impacts them.)</p> <p>https://m.salisburypost.com/2018/09/27</p>	Ryan was a gifted swimmer. He was also his high school's student body president and graduated with honors. Ryan had traveled extensively, including to forty-eight states and five continents. At UNCW, Ryan was majoring in international studies. His family said that travel had "ignited a fire in [Ryan's] heart for human rights."

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			<p>/carson-high-graduate-dies-in-vietnam-while-studying-abroad/</p> <p>https://www.wwaytv3.com/2018/10/08/family-has-warning-after-son-attending-uncw-dies-studying-abroad/</p> <p>https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/starnewsonline/obituary.aspx?n=ryan-duran-turney&pid=190339201&fhid=6224</p>	
11/16/18	Olivia Chan Shipp (20) Colorado	University of California, Los Angeles/ UCLA/ Rome, Italy	<p>Trastevere, Italy/ Fall/ Olivia was a UCLA junior studying abroad in Rome. Initial reporting about cause of death was unclear. However, ultimately it was said that Olivia died due to an accidental fall.</p> <p>http://www.romatoday.it/cronaca/olivia-shipp-morta-roma.html</p> <p>https://horancares.com/obits/olivia-chan-shipp/</p>	Olivia was a Communications major at UCLA and a Bruin’s Ambassador. She was active in the Alpha Phi sorority. She was also a social media intern for the UN Women Los Angeles Chapter. As an avid traveler, Olivia had been to Bora Bora, Costa Rica, Mexico, Belize, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, France, Portugal, Budapest and Prague.
11/30/18	Monica Santiago (24) California	Cerritos College/ Taiwan Experience Education Program (TEEP),	<p>Taiwan/ Illness/ Monica was participating in a Cerritos sponsored education abroad in Tainan City. While there, she was focused on</p>	Monica was a political science and foreign language major. Monica was deeply interested in learning about other cultures and had studied

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		Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology/ Education abroad, post-undergrad, internship/ Taiwan	<p>language learning, and was also teaching English as a second language to local children. On 11/29, Monica taught her last class. The next day, she died from “asthma complications.” In the aftermath of her death, one of the TEEP professor-administrators said, “On new programs we need to pay more attention on the students’ health and ask more questions about their medical histories.”</p> <p>https://www.talonmarks.com/news/2017/04/19/ascc-senate-approves-funding-for-students-to-study-abroad-in-taiwan/</p> <p>https://www.talonmarks.com/news/2017/04/19/ascc-senate-approves-funding-for-students-to-study-abroad-in-taiwan/</p> <p>https://www.cerritos.edu/academics/taiwan-experience.htm</p>	<p>Chinese from a young age. In 2016, she attended a study abroad in Thailand. Then, in 2017, she attended a month-long study abroad in Taiwan. Monica’s 2018 course appears to have been a 4-month long internship. On the final day of her study abroad, Monica said of her students, “It’s my last day with this class & the kids made me cry. They hid when I walked into the class & popped out shouting, ‘We love you, Teacher Monica!’ & said they had a surprise for me. They made me an envelope filled with cookies, a fruit jelly I like & notes from them thanking me for teaching them English. I’m so lucky to be teaching. They’ve made it so easy. My kids are my everything.”</p>
12/12/18	Sarah Papenheim (21) Minnesota	Erasmus University, Rotterdam/ Undergrad, direct enroll/	Netherlands/ Homicide/ Sarah lived about a block from campus. She was in her room when she was beaten and stabbed to death by a roommate.	Sarah was raised in Minnesota and California. She graduated from a Palo Cedro High School, in California. By age 15, she was already tracked as

		<p>Netherlands</p>	<p>Sarah was pronounced dead at the scene. In the days prior to Sarah’s murder, she had expressed concern about the suspect’s mood swings. However, she did not want to abandon him because she was his “only friend.” After Sarah’s death, the suspect fled the flat. He was later found and taken into custody.</p> <p>https://kstp.com/news/minnesotan-fatally-stabbed-while-studying-in-the-netherlands-sarah-papenheim/5178001/?cat=1</p> <p>https://apnews.com/010c88ce386b4599ba7ff3ae5cb0a9b1?fbclid=IwAR1QiWdKjLTyPaqI_Ie-79snXZugHyElSV-Qtn5DTQvzVCo3cu71ALNpKNE</p> <p>https://www.cnn.com/2018/12/14/us/american-student-killed-in-netherlands/index.html</p> <p>https://people.com/crime/american-college-student-murdered-roommate-netherlands/</p>	<p>a talented musician. Sarah became known amongst more experienced musicians as a skilled blues drummer. Friends described her as a happy and kind person whose life had been informed by the 2015 completed suicide of her brother. As a college student, Sarah was focused on psychology, specifically suicide prevention. She’d been studying in the Netherlands since 2016.</p>
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