

1996 Education Abroad Student Deaths

Death date/ Day	Name (age) Home state	Home university/ Study abroad program/ Student status, Program type, Timing of incident/ Country of study	Location of death/ Cause of death/ Details	About this student
2/25/96 Sunday	Sara Duker (22) New Jersey	Post-undergrad from Barnard/ Hebrew University, Jerusalem/ Post-undergrad, direct enroll/ Israel	Jerusalem, Israel/ Homicide, terrorism/ Sara and her fiancé, David Eisenfeld, were traveling by bus from Jerusalem to Jordan when a terrorist's bomb exploded killing twenty-five people. <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/1996/02/28/nyregion/recalling-a-life-ended-with-a-bus-bombing.html">https://www.nytimes.com/1996/02/28/nyregion/recalling-a-life-ended-with-a-bus-bombing.html</a> <a href="https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-xpm-1996-02-26-9602260097-story.html">https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-xpm-1996-02-26-9602260097-story.html</a> <a href="https://www.clevelandjewishnews.com/community/circle_of_life/remembering-matt-and-sara-20-years-later/article_899c877e-d418-11e5-a28f-47704d5b5322.html">https://www.clevelandjewishnews.com/community/circle_of_life/remembering-matt-and-sara-20-years-later/article_899c877e-d418-11e5-a28f-47704d5b5322.html</a> <a href="http://www.columbia.edu/cu/record/archives/vol21/vol21_iss19/record2119_31.html">http://www.columbia.edu/cu/record/archives/vol21/vol21_iss19/record2119_31.html</a> <a href="https://www.tampabay.com/archive/1996/02/27/they-found-faith-love-and-death-in-jerusalem/">https://www.tampabay.com/archive/1996/02/27/they-found-faith-love-and-death-in-jerusalem/</a>	Sara majored in environmental science at Barnard, graduating summa cum laude. She was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. In 1995, Sara participated in an environmental exchange program with Siberia. She also previously studied in Israel. A strong believer in peace in the Middle East, Sara wrote, "The state of Israel is a spiritual revolution; not a one-time event but an on-going revolution," emphasizing as key ideas "spiritual" and "on-going."

1996 Education Abroad Student Deaths

<p>2/25/96 Sunday</p>	<p>David Eisenfeld (25) Connecticut</p>	<p>Jewish Theological Seminary, Manhattan/ Jewish Theological Seminary, Israeli campus/ Graduate student, Academic study/ Israel</p>	<p>Jerusalem, Israel/ Homicide, terrorism/ David and his fiancée, Sara Duker, were traveling by bus from Jerusalem to Jordan when a terrorist's bomb exploded killing twenty-five people. <a href="http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/9602/israel_explosion/02-25/pm/">http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/9602/israel_explosion/02-25/pm/</a> <a href="https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-xpm-1996-02-26-9602260097-story.html">https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-xpm-1996-02-26-9602260097-story.html</a> <a href="https://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-xpm-1996-02-26-9602260056-story.html">https://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-xpm-1996-02-26-9602260056-story.html</a></p>	<p>Known as a seriously intellectual student with a good sense of humor, David graduated as a religious studies major at Yale. He was in graduate school at Jewish Theological Seminary (NY), attending a year-long JTS course in Israel as part of rabbinical studies. David and his fiancée, Sara, hoped to someday marry and open a school.</p>
<p>3/27/96 Wednesday</p>	<p>Virginia Amato (20) LA</p>	<p>University of Texas at Austin/ Semester at Sea, University of Pittsburgh/ Undergraduate, Third party program/ India</p>	<p>India/ Motor vehicle crash/ Semester at Sea was conducting a world-wide tour with 60 students. A last-minute itinerary change placed students and faculty on two busses traveling at night to the Taj Mahal in Agra. The driver was said to be overworked, tired and driving at night on a road known to be dangerous. One of the busses swerved off the road and down a steep incline, killing seven, including four American students and one American professor. Many more were injured. In the year 2000, Congress held a hearing about study</p>	<p>Unable to locate any biographical information.</p>

1996 Education Abroad Student Deaths

			<p>abroad student safety at which Virginia's father, John Amato, testified.</p> <p><a href="https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1996-06-17-me-15911-story.html">https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1996-06-17-me-15911-story.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/9603/india_bus_crash/index.html">http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/9603/india_bus_crash/index.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://globaled.us/safeti/Testimony_of_John_Amato.asp">http://globaled.us/safeti/Testimony_of_John_Amato.asp</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/9603/india_bus_crash/index.html">http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/9603/india_bus_crash/index.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.utimes.pitt.edu/archives/?p=3918">https://www.utimes.pitt.edu/archives/?p=3918</a></p>	
<p>3/27/96 Wednesday</p>	<p>Jenna Druck (21) CA</p>	<p>University of Colorado/ Semester at Sea, University of Pittsburgh/ Undergrad, Third party program/ India</p>	<p>India/ Motor vehicle crash/ Semester at Sea was conducting a world-wide tour with 60 students. A last-minute itinerary change placed students and faculty on two busses traveling at night to the Taj Mahal in Agra. The driver was said to be overworked, tired and driving at night on a road known to be dangerous. One of the busses swerved off the road and down a steep including, killing seven, including four American students and one American professor. Many more were injured. In the year 2000, Congress held a hearing about study abroad student safety at which Virginia's father, John Amato, testified.</p>	<p>At the age of 9, Jenna was selected as San Diego's Young Women Entrepreneur. Jenna's father says of his daughter, "She cared so deeply about people and social justice and had a tireless devotion to make the world a better place...I've been blessed to have met spiritual leaders, the pope, Mother Teresa, presidents, but the most remarkable person was [Jenna]. Her capacity to recognize and love people surpassed anything I've ever witnessed."</p>

1996 Education Abroad Student Deaths

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3/27/96 Wednesday	Cherese Laulhere (21) CA	UCLA/ Semester at Sea, University of Pittsburgh/ Undergraduate, Third party program/ India	India/ Motor vehicle crash/ Semester at Sea was conducting a world-wide tour with 60 students. A last-minute itinerary change placed students and faculty on two busses traveling at night to the Taj Mahal in Agra. The driver was said to be overworked, tired and driving at night on a road known to be dangerous. One of the busses swerved off the road and down a steep including, killing seven, including four American students and one American professor. Many more were injured. In the year 2000, Congress held a hearing about study abroad student safety at which Virginia's father, John Amato, testified. <a href="https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1996-06-17-me-15911-story.html">https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1996-06-17-me-15911-story.html</a>	When Cherese was 8 years old, she wrote about having a dream "that people do not fight over things that are not necessary. My dream is that there is peace." In college, Cherese became a geography major, interested in social and political issues. She was considering becoming a Peace Corps Volunteer after undergrad. About Cherese, her mother, Chris, wrote, "She was brilliant. She was talented. She was beautiful. She was sincere, honest, and grateful. She was love. She was everything and more. She was full of life and spirit.

1996 Education Abroad Student Deaths

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3/27/96 Wednesday	Sara Schewe (20) MA	Georgetown University/ Semester at Sea, University of Pittsburgh/ Undergraduate, Third party program/ India	India/ Motor vehicle crash/ Semester at Sea was conducting a world-wide tour with 60 students. A last-minute itinerary change placed students and faculty on two busses traveling at night to the Taj Mahal in Agra. The driver was said to be overworked, tired and driving at night on a road known to be dangerous. One of the busses swerved off the road and down a steep including, killing seven, including four American students and one American professor. Many more were injured. In the year 2000, Congress held a hearing about study abroad student safety at which Virginia’s father, John Amato, testified. <a href="https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1996-06-17-me-15911-story.html">https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1996-06-17-me-15911-story.html</a>	Sara was an avid student and role model, repeatedly making the honor roll and graduating at the top of her class. Her academic interests included art, especially painting and photography. She was also a skilled athlete, excelling at swimming, squash, and especially tennis.

1996 Education Abroad Student Deaths

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Non-lethal student safety incidents in 1996:

Rape, sexual harassment, motor vehicle crash injuries (bus, boat)