

2003 Education Abroad Student Deaths

Death date/ Day of incident	Name (age) Home state	Home university/ Education abroad program/ Student status/ Location of study	Location of death/ Cause of death/ Details/ News links	About this student
1/31/03	Matthew ("Matt") Alan Mullaney / (21) Massachusetts	Fairfield University/ The Angel Academy of Art in Florence/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Italy	<p>Florence, Italy/ Not Available, missing since 2003/ On January 11th, 2003, Matt traveled to Florence for a semester abroad. On the evening of January 31st, Matt was seen talking to a group of young people at a pub called The Lion's Fountain. He left at 2:30am. According to observers, he was not intoxicated. On February 3rd, Matt's family was notified that he had not returned to housing or class. Thereafter, he did not use his prepaid phone card, credit cards, or ATM card. He is believe to have had with him his state drivers license and health insurance card, though his passport remained in his apartment. Florence police ruled that there was no evidence of foul play. Possible sightings of Matt have been reported in Wales, Ireland and Italy.</p> <p>http://www.matthewmullaney.com/</p> <p>http://www.charleyproject.org/cases/</p>	Matt was an artist. He loved to draw and listen to music. Family recalled him as a gentle spirit with a quick wit.

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			m/mullaney_matthew.html https://www.fbi.gov/audio-repository/matthew-alan-mullaney.mp3/view	
3/16/03	Rachel Corrie/ (23) Washington	Evergreen State College/ Evergreen State College/ Undergrad, independent study/ Gaza	<p>Gaza/ Disputed, intentional injury, homicide v. unintentional injury Rachel engaged in a senior year project to connect her city of Olympia, Washington, to sister city, Rafah, Gaza. For this coursework, Rachel traveled to Gaza. While there, she worked with International Solidarity Movement (ISM) non-combatants who were acting as human shields to stop Israel Defense Forces (IDF) from demolishing Palestinian homes in Rafah. An Israeli soldier was driving an armored bulldozer when he ran over Rachel. She was taken to the hospital, but her injuries were critical, and she died shortly after her arrival. Eye-witness accounts of what had happened conflicted. Israeli soldiers maintained that the driver did not see Rachel and therefore her death was accidental. Palestinian and ISM witnesses said the driver knew protesters were present,</p>	<p>While at Evergreen State College, Rachel joined the Olympia Movement for Peace and Justice and became a committed peace activist. After the Rachel's death, her parents described her as "...dedicated to everybody...filled with a love and sense of duty to our fellow man, wherever they lived, and she gave her life trying to protect those that could not protect themselves." As an avid diarist, Rachel's writings have been posthumously published as "Let Me Stand Alone: the journal of Rachel Corrie." There have also been a number of artistic interpretations of her life and death, some of which have generated considerable</p>

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			<p>and that Rachel had been standing on top of a pile of debris, therefore her death was deliberate. Controversy sparked press coverage. The Israeli military conducted an investigation which concluded that Rachel's death was an accident. This investigation and its conclusions were criticized by ISM, as well as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. Rachel's parents filed civil suit against the government of Israel. In 2004, the U.S. Department of State indicated that they did not find the investigation into Rachel's death to be "thorough, credible, and transparent." In 2012, their suit was rejected, as the government of Israel validated the original military verdict, indicating that Rachel had put herself in harm's way and therefore was responsible for her own death.</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rachel_Corrie</p> <p>https://rachelcorriefoundation.org/rachel</p>	controversy.
3/22/03	Brandon Brei / (26)	Yale University / Faculty led program,	Puerto Rico / Drowned /	Brandon received his bachelor's degree in biology

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	<p>Connecticut</p>	<p>Center for Disease Control's laboratory in San Juan/ Graduate student, research/ Puerto Rico</p>	<p>A group of ten Yale students were being trained at the CDC's lab in San Juan, with their topic dengue fever. On the 22nd, the students went swimming. Unbeknownst to them, they were swimming in water known by locals to be dangerous. A fellow student got into trouble in the water. Brandon attempted a rescue, but instead drowned. On Sunday, the 23rd, the Coast Guard called off the search for his body. It is unclear if Brandon's body was ever found. (Please note, Puerto Rico is a US territory, so technically Brandon was not a "study abroad" student. However, this case remains in our data as an example of: (1) student mobility for the purpose of furthering employability, and (2) the risks associated with placing students in an unfamiliar landscape.)</p> <p>https://yaledailynews.com/blog/2003/03/25/brei-grd-06-drowns-in-rescue-attempt/</p> <p>http://archives.news.yale.edu/v31.n24/story11.html</p> <p>http://medicine.yale.edu/ysph/emd/re</p>	<p>and entomology from the University of Massachusetts. At Yale, he was a PhD candidate in biology and biomedical sciences. Brandon was especially interested in the ecology of vector-borne spirochetes, including Borreliosis and Lyme disease. He had already published six research papers, spent a year as a Fulbright fellow, and received a CDC fellowship in vector-borne disease. During this trip, Brandon presented his doctoral research to the staff at CDC. Friends remembered Brandon as generous, funny and thoughtful of others.</p>
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5/17/03	Jean Joseph Reginald ("Reggie") Poyau / (21) Massachusetts	Brandeis University/ Study abroad through Senegal/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Senegal	Senegal/ Drowned/ Reggie drowned during his junior year of college, while studying abroad in Senegal. https://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-7781242.html http://www.thebrandeishoot.com/articles/9347 https://www.facebook.com/Reggie-Poyau-Memorial-Scholarship-162253977161462/	Reggie's family emigrated from Haiti when he was a child. He taught himself English by watching cartoons. Reggie was the first generation in his family to attend college. He was a political science major, with aspirations to have a career in foreign diplomacy. He became a valued member of the Brandeis Track team. The Reggie Poyau Memorial Invitational track and field event is held in Reggie's memory.

Non-lethal incidents in 2003:

- Kidnapping
- Vehicular—boating
- Robbery