

2014 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
02/20/14 Sunday	John Durkin/ (21) New Hampshire	Bates College/ Trinity College/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Italy	Rome, Italy/ Intentional Injury-Homicide, assault with injury/ John was found dead on railroad tracks. Initial news reports suggested that John had wandered away from friends after an evening outing to Campo de Fiori. However, John's family hired a team of investigators. After a 28-month investigation, forensic pathology showed that John had been drugged with GHB and struck several times by a blunt instrument on the right side of his head. Robbery was presumed the motive, as John's cell phone and money were gone. Train station surveillance video showed John walking into St. Peter's station at 5:15am. At 6:35am, John's body was found on the tracks. The Durkin family said, "...the pathologist reported that John would likely have been very disoriented...[and this] may explain why he walked in an opposite direction from Campo de Fiori to his campus housing."	As a youth, John enjoyed many sports, particularly soccer, baseball and football. John was analytical, calling game plays at a young age. He wrote for the school newspaper, sang in the choir, and was captain of his senior year football team. In college, John was an economics major. He had just completed a challenging semester and was looking forward to his study abroad in Italy. Family describes John as "faithful, kind, loyal, witty, disciplined, competitive and loving." In the aftermath of John's death, his family established the John Nolan Durkin Scholarship '15 at Bates to honor John's legacy and support Bates' scholar-athletes.

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			<p>https://www.bates.edu/news/2014/02/22/durkin-death-announcement/</p> <p>http://www.seacoastonline.com/news/20160710/rye-students-death-raises-questions-about-safety-of-studying-abroad</p> <p>http://www.italianinsider.it/?q=node/2054</p>	
03/14/14 Friday	Aaron Plowman/ (24) California	Montana State University/ Undergrad, study abroad/ England	<p>England/ Fall/ Aaron was one of 14 students on a professor-run course, "Shakespeare's England." He climbed the roof of an abandoned warehouse. When the roof collapsed, Aaron fell and died.</p> <p>https://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/montana_state_university/msu-student-dies-in-london-accident/article_87943f76-ae31-11e3-8de7-0019bb2963f4.html</p> <p>http://www.nbcrightnow.com/story/25011818/msu-says-group-followed-policies-when-student-died</p>	Aaron was a senior English major. He planned to graduate in the autumn of '14.

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<p>04/07/14 Monday</p>	<p>Rachel Smylie/ (21) Michigan</p>	<p>University of Michigan/ CIEE/ Undergrad, study abroad, interim travel/ South Africa</p>	<p>Namibia/ Vehicular/ Rachel was traveling in a rented vehicle with four other study abroad students. They were going from South Africa to a national park in northern Namibia. News accounts did not provide details about the vehicle crashed, except to say that other students survived, but Rachel did not.</p> <p>https://www.michigandaily.com/news/university-student-killed-accident-while-studying-abroad-south-africa</p> <p>https://robleveridge.wordpress.com/2014/05/07/a-fathers-words-at-the-funeral-of-his-daughter/</p>	<p>Rachel was described as vivacious, engaging, outgoing, adventurous, and very smart, “a force field of joy.” She participated in church mission trips and volunteered to serve people with HIV/AIDS. After her first study abroad trip, she got a Swahili phrase as a tattoo: <i>Wamola ni moja</i>: We are all one. Her father said, “Rachel was on top of the world, with a full life ahead of her. It is not supposed to be this way...”</p>
<p>06/14/14 Saturday</p>	<p>Kaitlin Goldstein/ (28) Rhode Island</p>	<p>Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)/ Students’ Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL)/ Graduate student, research program/ India</p>	<p>Ladakh, India/ Fall/ A competitive runner, Kaitlin went jogging on a mountain trail. When she did not return to housing, searchers looked for her. One week later, her body was found off a hiking trail. Authorities concluded that she’d slipped on loose rock and fallen into a ravine. Kaitlin had planned to remain after the conference and install solar</p>	<p>Kaitlin grew up in Rhode Island. She earned a bachelor’s degree at Brown University and a master’s degree at University of Texas, Austin. There, Kaitlin studied architecture and engineering. While pursuing her doctorate, she was part of a team that won a White House energy efficiency research award. She</p>

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			<p>panels at a Buddhist monastery.</p> <p>https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/06/23/kaitlin-goldstein-brilliant-scholar-and-authority-renewable-energy/DuNua374HZvePOLFLji7gK/story.html</p> <p>http://news.mit.edu/2014/graduate-student-kaitlin-goldstein-dies-india</p> <p>https://www.inquisitr.com/1318703/mit-graduate-student-kaitlin-goldstein-found-dead-28-year-old-student-fell-off-cliff-in-india/</p> <p>http://tech.mit.edu/V134/N28/goldstein.html</p> <p>https://toolsofcontrol.com/2014/07/13/my-sister-dies-at-28-2/</p>	<p>was in India to participate in a workshop on energy and development, organized by the MIT-affiliated Dalai Lama Center. Kaitlin was an “energy fellow” at the MIT Energy Initiative and the Martin Family Society for Sustainability. About her work, she said, “I am most gratified by the process of bringing together people of diverse backgrounds and skill sets, fostering truly interdisciplinary and integrated design”. Her brother said Kaitlin was “very caring and very smart...really passionate about helping poorer places out.”</p>
06/21/14 Saturday	Richard Fu/ (20) Taiwan	University of Illinois/ University of Illinois, College of ACES/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Brazil	Brazil/ Drowned/ Three students were swimming near Rio de Janeiro. One was able to swim to shore. Lifeguards rescued another. However, Richard was pulled into rough waters and presumed drowned. News reports do not say if his body was	Richard was a Crop Sciences major.

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			<p>found.</p> <p>https://will.illinois.edu/news/story/u-of-i-student-missing-off-coast-of-brazil</p> <p>http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2014-06-26/news/chi-u-of-i-student-dies-another-missing-in-separate-incidents-in-brazil-20140626_1_brazilian-embassy-brazilian-authorities-florianopolis</p>	
06/23/14 Monday	Ashley Walls/ (29) Illinois	University of Illinois/ University of Illinois/ Graduate student, research program/ Brazil	<p>Brazil/ Illness/ Ashley became ill and was being flown from a hospital in Florianopolis to a hospital in Sao Paulo. However, she did not survive transport. News accounts indicate Ashley died from bacterial meningitis.</p> <p>http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2014-06-26/news/chi-u-of-i-student-dies-another-missing-in-separate-incidents-in-brazil-20140626_1_brazilian-embassy-brazilian-authorities-florianopolis</p> <p>http://abc7chicago.com/news/u-of-i-grad-student-dies-of-bacterial-</p>	<p>Ashley was a doctoral student in education, doing research in Brazil. Her family described her as an “exceptional human being, kind and loving, gave of herself unselfishly...the hardest working person I ever met.”</p>

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<p>07/06/14 Sunday</p>	<p>Adam Rice/ (21) California</p>	<p>University of California Berkeley/ International Summer School, University of Sussex/ Undergrad, study abroad/ England</p>	<p>meningitis-in-brazil/142244/ England/ Vehicular/ Adam was in a car accident. His parents flew to England to be with him, but he did not survive his injuries. http://www.dailycal.org/2014/07/08/ uc-berkeley-student-adam-rice-dies- 21/ http://www.dailybreeze.com/2014/07 /09/manhattan-beach-native-adam- rice-21-dies-in-england/ http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/lati mes/obituary.aspx?pid=171686865</p>	<p>Adam was an American Studies major, who was also a skilled pianist, singer, actor and filmmaker. At college, Adam was active in Berkeley's improvisation and sketch comedy group. Peers said, Adam "owned the stage...but outside [acting] he was totally humble." He aspired to become a director and film editor.</p>
<p>07/14/14 Monday</p>	<p>Keaton ("Keater") Klein/ (21) Nebraska</p>	<p>University of Nebraska-Lincoln/ UNL at Oxford/ Undergrad, study abroad, preprogram travel/ England</p>	<p>Prague, Czech Republic/ Fall/ Keaton fell from the rooftop of a five- story building. Those who knew Keaton speculated that he was on the roof to watch the sun rise, which he loved to do. http://www.omaha.com/news/nebras ka/unl-student-who-died-during-trip- abroad-was-living- his/article_a2ac8977-3a56-54ec-a41f-</p>	<p>Keaton was a business major, concentrating in accounting, and a member of Delta Tau Delta. Family described him as having a deep love for his family and friends, and also a "passion for adventure". He believed he would be "living his dream" during study abroad. After completing undergrad, Keaton wanted to work in investment banking</p>

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07/14/14 Monday	Damion Wilkins/ (19) Virginia	Old Dominion University/ Tropical Pathology and Infectious Disease Association/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Peru	Peru/ Disputed: Illness versus Unintentional Injury, weather-related/ Damion was on a professor-run 1-week course. Students and staff were returning from a tropical village. During the 1-1/2 hour hike, Damion complained of leg numbness. Shortly, thereafter, he collapsed. Though others were with him and CPR was given, no emergency services were available. Family was told that Damion had suffered a "heart attack" and died. Two weeks later, Damion's body was returned to the U.S. Family notes that Damion had had a physical exam two weeks before the course and was deemed healthy. To this day, Damion's	Damion was a biology major who intended to go to medical school. Family described him as loving to "take care of people." Damion's obituary says, "The last thing he did was to dance with the tribal people of Peru and give out candy to the children."

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			<p>family says they've never received answers about what specific role weather, terrain, pack weight, hydration, nutrition, and exertion played in their son's death.</p> <p>https://pilotonline.com/news/local/health/mother-seeks-answers-in-son-s-study-abroad-death/article_19666a0e-9d02-5722-8d21-2e137182396c.html</p> <p>https://pilotonline.com/news/local/health/a-year-after-student-s-death-mother-still-seeks-answers/article_c14b3856-e2bd-5cb6-abde-b1bcf1b379af.html</p> <p>https://pilotonline.com/news/local/health/article_c14b3856-e2bd-5cb6-abde-b1bcf1b379af.html</p>	
07/18/14 Friday	Haley Rue/ (19) Washington	Harvard/ Harvard Student Agencies/ Undergrad, internship/ Germany	<p>Germany/ Drowned/ Haley fell into a whirlpool at the bottom of a waterfall. Three other students were witnesses. One of them tried to save Haley and required rescue.</p> <p>http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2014/7/20/sophomore-rue-dies-</p>	<p>A sophomore student, Haley was traveling with Harvard's "Let's Go" travel guides as a researcher-writer. In this capacity, she had traveled through Austria, Hungary, and Germany. Those who knew Haley spoke of her kindness, adventurous spirit, and love of</p>

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			<p>abroad/</p> <p>https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/07/21/harvard-student-drowns-germany/GdXPhx7Va3NSHWIK8RayoJ/story.html</p> <p>http://www.businessinsider.com/harvard-student-dies-in-germany-2014-7</p>	writing.
08/02/14 Saturday	Adam Hairston/ (22) Tennessee	University of Memphis/ same/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Argentina	<p>Argentina/ Fall/ Adam was on a balcony. He fell three- stories and died.</p> <p>http://www.wmcactionnews5.com/story/26191892/u-of-m-student-killed-during-balcony-fall-in-argentina</p> <p>http://www.dailyhelmsman.com/archives/fallen-tiger-remains-an-inspiration-among-many/article_2e50d73b-f3d0-59fb-ab0b-557e407b39ff.html</p> <p>http://www.highpointchapel.com/obituary/Adam-Michael-Hairston/Memphis-TN/1409005</p>	Adam was an International Business major, with a focus on human rights. He a member of Alpha Lamda Delta and U-M's academic national honor society. Adam also played for the school's rugby team. Family members said that Adam "came into this world loving it," "never met a stranger" and "helped anybody he came into contact with." Through the Boy Scouts, church mission trips, and local non-profits, Adam was an active volunteer. Friends said, "[Adam was] the kind of guy everyone went to for advice, and he gave great advice...if you [had] a five

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				minute conversation he could change your day. If you [had] a conversation longer...he could change your life.”
09/05/14 Friday	Aaron Sofer (23) New Jersey	Rav Tzvi Yeshiva/ Same/ Undergrad, religious program/ Israel	Israel/ Not Available/ Aaron was hiking in a forest. He became separated from his friend and did not return to their housing. After five days of searching, his body was found. An investigation concluded that there was no foul play. Aaron did not have a cell phone. News sources speculated that Aaron died from dehydration. http://www.cnn.com/2014/08/28/world/meast/israel-missing-u-s-hiker/index.html http://www.jpost.com/National-News/Police-find-body-in-Jerusalem-suspect-it-may-be-missing-American-yeshiva-student-372667 https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2014/08/28/body-found-israel-matches-missing-american-hiker/14751197/	Aaron was a Yeshiva student in Israel.
09/05/14	Erica Hagan	Post-undergraduate	Chili/	Erica was a recent graduate of

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Friday	(22) Kentucky	internship/ Colegio Bautista School/ Chili	<p>Intentional Injury-Homicide, assault/ Erica was found naked in a bathtub with multiple blows to the head. A security guard was arrested, but there was no conviction.</p> <p>http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2768955/Chilean-police-arrest-university-security-guard-44-brutal-slaying-American-graduate-bludgeoned-death-bathtub.html</p> <p>https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/kentucky-teacher-likely-murdered-chilean-apartment-police-n199121</p>	<p>Georgetown College in Kentucky, embarking on a post-graduation internship through an exchange program. As a student- teaching assistant, Erica was meant to work through the fall semester: “She wanted to help people...and went where she felt like she was most needed.” Erica blogged about her internship at <i>Donde en el Mundo?</i></p>
9/10/14 Wednesday	Ariel Isaac Newman (18) New York	Gap year program/ Mechinat Yeud/ Israel	<p>Israel/ Heatstroke/ Ariel was attending a 9-month program in Israel. As a part of the curriculum, Ariel was on a programmed hike. Investigation revealed that he died of exertional heat stroke. For five years, Ariel’s parents advocated for Israel’s government to prosecute a criminal negligent homicide case. The Israel District Attorney in the South declined, and the State Attorney’s Office denied an appeal to prosecute. Finally, a petition was filed with the Israel</p>	<p>Ariel was his parent’s only child. At the conclusion of his gap program, he was to begin freshman year at NY’s Binghamton University. In the aftermath of his death, Ariel’s parents worked with medical experts to create “Ariel’s Checklist,” a lifesaving guide for the prevention of deaths due to heat exposure.</p> <p>www.arielschecklist.com</p>

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			<p>Supreme Court to force the Attorney General to prosecute a criminal negligent homicide case, but in December 2019, this was also officially denied. Ariel's parents are pursuing civil litigation.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UI5RHMG5Yno</p>	
10/7/14 Tuesday	MacKenzie McDermott (20) Illinois	Truman State/ Universidad de Burgos/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Spain	<p>Spain/ Illness/ Earlier in the year, MacKenzie had had a health problem. While in Spain, she began to feel sick. MacKenzie did not attend class on Monday. On Tuesday, roommates discovered her dead. In spite of MacKenzie's pre-existing condition, family had not been made aware that she was unwell. News reports do not indicate that medical treatment had been provided.</p> <p>http://tmn.truman.edu/blog/news/campus/student-dies-while-abroad/</p> <p>http://tmn.truman.edu/blog/news/campus/student-dies-while-abroad/</p> <p>http://fox2now.com/2014/10/31/sch</p>	<p>MacKenzie was a double major, in anthropology and sociology, with an interest in women's and gender studies and writing. Friends said she was a "good listener" who "could make anybody laugh." MacKenzie hoped to become a writer.</p>

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Non-lethal incidents during 2014:

Car accidents with injuries

Bus accidents with injuries and fatalities

Bus hijacking

Civil unrest

Ebola outbreak

Sexual assaults

Robberies