

2022 Education Abroad Student Death

Death Date/ Day of week	Name (age) Home State	Home school/ Education abroad program/ Student status/ Country of study	Location of death/ Cause of death/ Details/ News links	About this student
3/5/22	Mieke Oort (21) MA	NHLStenden University of Applied Sciences/ Direct Enroll/ Netherlands	<p>Leeuwarden, Netherlands Homicide, stabbing Police were called about a fire, whereupon Meike was found fatally stabbed in her apartment. Authorities found two injured men there, as well. The next day, German police arrested a suspect, Thomas R. Allegedly, he had briefly dated Mieke, but after she stopped seeing him, he'd begun to stalk her, including placing a tracker on her bike. On the day Mieke was killed, TR threw an incendiary device into the apartment building, causing the fire-related injuries to two men. During the pandemonium, the suspect got into the building and stabbed Mieke. He then headed for Germany but was captured near the border.</p> <p><a href="https://www.boston.com/news/crime/2022/03/09/mieke-oort-winchester-native-stabbed-netherlands/">https://www.boston.com/news/crime/2022/03/09/mieke-oort-winchester-native-stabbed-netherlands/</a> <a href="https://www.thedailybeast.com/us-student-mieke-oort-allegedly-stabbed-to-death-by-jealous-dutch-tinder-date-thomas-r">https://www.thedailybeast.com/us-student-mieke-oort-allegedly-stabbed-to-death-by-jealous-dutch-tinder-date-thomas-r</a></p>	Mieke was a 2019 high school graduate. Because her father is Dutch-born and they have relatives in the Netherlands, Mieke attended university there. She expected to graduate in 2024 as a sports and leisure major. She was also an avid kite surfer.

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<p>7/16/22</p>	<p>Luke Gabriel Bird (21) TX</p>	<p>U.S. Naval Academy/ Arturo Prat Naval Academy/ Connected/ Chile</p>	<p>Chili/ Fall/ Luke was hiking with another naval student at the Salto El Agua Waterfall in Placilla (7 miles south of Valparaiso) when he slipped from the trail and fell approximately 300 feet. The next day, Luke's body was found in the waterfall's lagoon. <a href="https://www.star-telegram.com/news/state/texas/article263594343.html">https://www.star-telegram.com/news/state/texas/article263594343.html</a> <a href="https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11025977/US-midshipman-plunges-death-Chilean-waterfall.html">https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11025977/US-midshipman-plunges-death-Chilean-waterfall.html</a></p>	<p>Luke was a midshipman at the US Naval Academy, majoring in ocean engineering. He was in Chile for a year-long study abroad program. Luke served in student government and was president of the National Honor Society. In 2018, he was one of five naval students to receive the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross of Achievement.</p>
<p>10/29/22 Saturday</p>	<p>Steven Blesi (20) GA</p>	<p>Kennesaw State University/ TEAN-WorldStrides/ South Korea</p>	<p>Itaewon, South Korea/ Environment, crowd crush/ <a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/video/world/american-studying-abroad-among-seoul-crush-victims/2022/10/30/3b6830f1-1158-4797-b16a-cc2e424d869d_video.html">https://www.washingtonpost.com/video/world/american-studying-abroad-among-seoul-crush-victims/2022/10/30/3b6830f1-1158-4797-b16a-cc2e424d869d_video.html</a>  <a href="https://www.thedailybeast.com/two-americans-killed-in-seoul-halloween-stampede-identified">https://www.thedailybeast.com/two-americans-killed-in-seoul-halloween-stampede-identified</a>  <a href="https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-63456066">https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-63456066</a></p>	<p>Steven was a junior student at KSU two-months into a study abroad program. His goal was to gain language proficiency and eventually work in international business in East Asia.</p>

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<p>10/29/22 Saturday</p>	<p>Anne Gieske (20) KY</p>	<p>University of Kentucky/ TEAN-WorldStrides/ South Korea</p>	<p>Itaewon, South Korea/ Environment, crowd crush/ A cosmopolitan area popular amongst tourists, Itaewon was hosting its first Halloween after three years of pandemic restrictions. Crowd-size estimates exceeded one-hundred-thousand people converging on narrow streets. Four hours before people began dying, the police received their first calls about the growing danger. But no crowd-control enforcement arrived. Eyewitnesses rejected the description of a stampede. One survivor said, "It was a slow agonizing crush. This crush was not caused by drunk people. It was caused by a lack of planning, police force, and emergency services...I was trying to pull people out because there [were] not enough police officers and nobody was doing enough to make the crowd stop." At least 156 died, most of them between their teens and thirties. In addition to two US study abroad students, there were at least four other study abroad students hailing from Japan, Viet Nam, Thailand, and Kazakhstan.</p> <p><a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/11/01/anne-gieske-seoul-crush-victim/">https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/11/01/anne-gieske-seoul-crush-victim/</a></p>	<p>Anne was a junior nursing student attending a semester-abroad with two other U-K students and a faculty member. She had just celebrated her birthday the day before her death.</p>
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