

Year Abroad Newsletter – Summer Term 2017

Welcome from the Director of the Year Abroad

As you reach the end of your time abroad, you will no doubt have mixed feelings about leaving your placement. Some of you may still have some time left abroad, or have internships and other placements lined up for the summer, while others will be returning home. Whether you feel that you have had the best year of your life or that this year has been a real struggle, the summer—and the eventual return to Warwick—are approaching. It is never too late to be thinking about how the skills and experiences you have developed and encountered over the Year Abroad can help you in life after Warwick, and we would certainly encourage you to try to make the most of the long summer ahead. Whatever your ideal career, your experiences abroad will stand you in good stead for later life.

It is also the time of year when we begin to brief outgoing students about their time abroad and to seek feedback from current students about their experiences. This year we have adapted our end of year questionnaires to include feedback not only on your YA experience and on our support and provision for you, but also on any time you have spent abroad during the summer months before the YA or indeed if you intend to spend any time abroad after your placement. Please do complete this questionnaire as fully as possible and do remember that we take all feedback about our Year Abroad provision seriously. You may recall that in the last newsletter I included a list of areas where we have introduced meaningful changes based on your feedback, so please do keep suggestions coming in. By the same token, if you have encountered anything during the year that you feel ought to be mentioned in our pre-departure briefings, please let us know.

As ever if you have any questions about any aspect of the Year Abroad please do get in touch.

May I wish you the best of luck for the end of the year and the summer ahead.

David

Dr David Lees
Director of the Year Abroad

Brexit and the Year Abroad

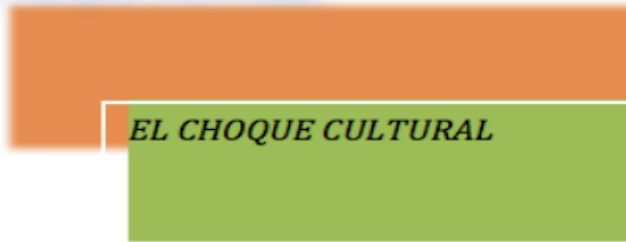
The snap General Election, scheduled for 8 June 2017, is likely to mean a brief pause in the discussions around the UK's involvement in the Erasmus Plus framework. The School is putting into place various contingency plans should the Erasmus Plus funding cease to exist, although our current understanding is that the funding will continue for two further academic years as things stand. Nevertheless, this remains an area of concern for all Higher Education institutions across the UK and we will continue to lobby the UK government to reinforce the importance of the Erasmus Plus funding to students and indeed to UK academia.

Returners' party

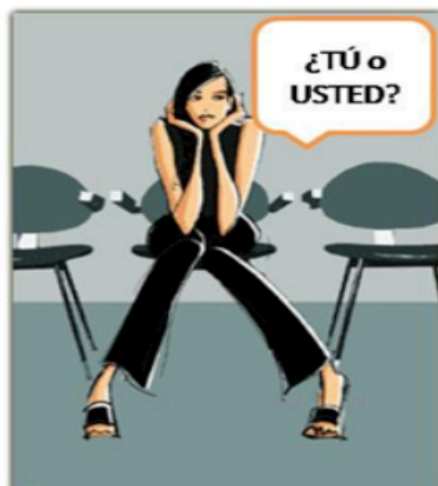
We will be sending out further details about the returners' party in due course. This is likely to take place on Tuesday of week 1, Term 1, next academic year. It will be an opportunity for you to share your Year Abroad experiences with friends and staff and for us to welcome you back to Warwick.

Intercultural workshops

- Living, working or studying overseas provides a fantastic opportunity to develop and hone your intercultural skills: we have been working closely with the Office for Global Engagement (OGE) on a series of intercultural awareness workshops for our departing students. These interactive workshops are part of a broader intercultural programme that students can continue to benefit from during their time abroad and upon their return.
- Departmental sessions are also being organised to introduce outgoing students to possible cultural challenges when abroad – we look forward to receiving further suggestions and contributions from our returners next academic year to advise students who will be getting ready for their Year Abroad.



EL CHOQUE CULTURAL



- As in this current academic year, we will also work with the OGE on arranging a workshop for returning students to help you reflect on some of the skills you have developed while abroad.

Recent events and other news in brief

Congratulations to Dr Sophie Stevens

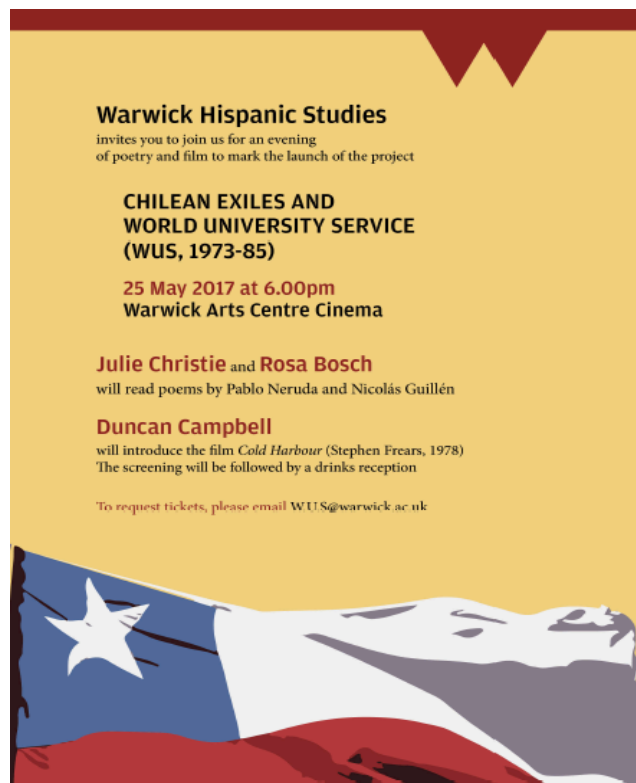
Congratulations to Sophie Stevens, Hispanic Studies YA coordinator for Erasmus placements, on passing her PhD viva in December. Sophie's PhD thesis is on *Uruguayan Theatre in Translation: Performability, Mobility and Intercultural Dialogue*.

Table ronde on the French presidential elections

As in past years, French Studies has hosted a round-table discussion on the French presidential elections which took place on 3 May 2017. Participants included Prof Nick Hewlett on the extreme-left; Prof Jim Shields (Aston) on the FN; Dr David Lees on the extreme-right; William Rispin on the centre-right and Béatrice Julé-Keogan on the centre-left. The chair was Prof Pierre-Philippe Fraiture. French Studies colleagues have been contributing to media discussions on the elections over the past few weeks, with Prof Nick Hewlett and Dr David Lees giving interviews to Sky News; CNN; TRT World; Radio Sputnik; CBC Canada and local radio.

The University of Warwick and Chilean political exiles

Hispanic Studies and the School of Modern Languages & Cultures are launching a new project on Warwick's role in the World University Service (WUS), which secured scholarships to many Chilean students escaping the military dictatorship between the early 1970s and the early 1980s. On 25 May a special film and poetry event celebrates the project's kick off with actress Julie Christie as a special guest for the evening.



Warwick Hispanic Studies
invites you to join us for an evening
of poetry and film to mark the launch of the project

**CHILEAN EXILES AND
WORLD UNIVERSITY SERVICE
(WUS, 1973-85)**

25 May 2017 at 6.00pm
Warwick Arts Centre Cinema

Julie Christie and **Rosa Bosch**
will read poems by Pablo Neruda and Nicolás Guillén

Duncan Campbell
will introduce the film *Cold Harbour* (Stephen Frears, 1978)
The screening will be followed by a drinks reception

To request tickets, please email WUS@warwick.ac.uk

Hispanic Studies student Blog

Hispanic Studies has started a new student Blog to offer a space for students, especially those coming back from the Year Abroad, to share their stories, news and experiences through different contents including reports, book and film reviews, articles and more.

<https://hispanicblogwarwick.blogspot.co.uk/?m=1>

If you are thinking about a submission, please get in touch with Hispanic Studies colleagues Dr Leticia Villamediana González (L.Villamediana-Gonzalez@warwick.ac.uk) or Raquel Navas (R.Navas@warwick.ac.uk).

Careers advice and future planning

Our link careers advisor, Clare Halldron, is always happy to discuss future career planning with Year Abroad students and will be particularly keen to provide help and support in finding internships and planning for life after Warwick. Clare can be contacted by email at C.M.Halldron@warwick.ac.uk