“Why you should do a year abroad” by Nicholas Lundmark

“IT’S NOT WHAT YOU KNOW, BUT WHO YOU KNOW.”

This hackneyed saying, loved by career advisors, sixth-form tutors and outspoken uncles at family gatherings, may lead you to believe that university amounts to little more than a three-year-long networking event. But to take such a cynical view would distract you from the value of what’s really on offer at university.

**University is a place of new experiences:** living away from home, independence, counting pennies. For many, it is an important time for personal growth and reflection, and I have no doubt that the most formative experience one can undertake at university is to do a year abroad. I invite you to ask a returning student about their year abroad. You are almost guaranteed to hear “life-changing”, “amazing”, “I wish I could go back”. They aren’t [always] being pretentious – it’s true. **A year abroad is often the highlight of any student’s stint at university**, and with good reason.

You might also hear that employers love seeing an applicant who has done a year abroad. It suggests a well-travelled individual with independence, adaptability, and intercultural wisdom. And, again, that’s true – but that’s just what the staff here have to tell you.

It’s not something you do just to plonk a few words on your CV. **It’s an experience that you will cherish for life.**

There are countless reasons for it, but I think the first and most important is just how much fun it is. The atmosphere amongst exchange students is always one of excitement; everyone is thrilled to be there, everyone is eager to explore.

Exploration costs time and money, you might be thinking. However, you’ll often find as an exchange student that you have ample amounts of free time: time to travel, time to learn a language, time to take up a new hobby, time to reflect. As for money, UK students are eligible to receive the same funding that they would get in the UK, and if you study or work in Europe you are eligible for an Erasmus+ grant, which is on top of student finance.

Additionally, for all students, tuition fees for an exchange year are much cheaper than the usual fees. Everyone has their preferences for what a year abroad would include and luckily there is something for everyone. There are opportunities worldwide, perhaps in places you had never considered. There are so many different things you might end up doing – the list would be endless – **but it is this potential for adventure that makes it so exciting.**

The prospect of going to live in another country for several months may seem daunting, but you are never alone. Whether before or during your exchange, the Study Abroad Team is here to help. There are weekly drop-in sessions and information sessions, where you’ll also find student ambassadors to answer any questions – I strongly encourage you to go if you have any doubts.

Whether you work or study, do a single placement or split, in Europe or beyond, I highly recommend a year abroad. **The places you see, the things you learn, and the people you meet will all be unforgettable.** University is a time to try new things, and you are being offered this unique, invaluable, unmissable opportunity. When it comes to life experience, it’s not just what you know but what you do that counts.
Looking Ahead: Career Confusion

Being constantly surrounded by careers fairs, talk of grad jobs and summer internships, and even family members asking what you’re going to do once you’ve finished your degree is one of the most difficult things in the world; but I promise you’re not alone in feeling overwhelmed by all of this!

An Applied Linguistics degree offers so many experiences and a wealth of life knowledge but it’s no surprise that an abstract degree title like this is a struggle when applying for very specific jobs and graduate schemes.

While many options are slowly improving, it’s no surprise that the opportunities for those studying social sciences and humanities are limited in comparison to other fields! So where do you begin? And how do we show the world how incredible a degree in Applied Linguistics really is?

The first thing to do is attend some careers fairs and get a very general idea of what sector you’d like to try and get into. Applied Linguistics students are usually most interested in PR and marketing, but others also look at careers in HR, speech therapy, and even recruitment. Careers fairs and the careers advice service will help you make this decision.

Graduate schemes...

Grad schemes can be a great way of getting yourself started on the career ladder. It can be difficult to get into fields like PR, marketing and communications if you have no way of getting a job, so grad schemes really offer this opportunity. Make sure you practice online tests and see the Warwick Skills and Careers for help on creating an outstanding CV.

Careers...

Although it may be too early to apply for jobs that don’t come under graduate schemes or training contracts, it’s still a good time to have a look around and see what else is on offer. Graduate schemes definitely aren’t the only route and some people may forget this! Spend your time seeing what other opportunities are out there.
**TERM 1 REVIEW - GLOCAL EVENTS**

Our first School Dayz was a great success!

Join us for the next School Dayz on Saturday 19th January!

Our GloCAL trip to the Birmingham Christmas Markets was the event to steal the show! Everyone together getting ready for the end of term!

POP! Was a pleasure as always - our ‘Cops & Robbers’ theme was a huge hit!
WHAT’S ON - TERM 2

After a great first term the GloCAL society are putting on even more amazing events for everyone to get involved with. Here is a calendar of all the things you need to remember for term 2; but don’t forget to check the Facebook page and the noticeboard for updates!

WEEK 2
19/01/19 - School Dayz

WEEK 4
30/01/19 - POP! Circling with Sociology

WEEK 5
5/02/19 - Pancake Day

WEEK 7
20/02/19 - POP! Circling with Game of Thrones Soc

WEEK 9
02/03/19 - Linguistics & Sociology Ball 2019

Keep an eye out for the next lot of tickets to go on sale for the Linguistics and Sociology Ball!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find all 10 words?
Answers at the bottom of the page!

- Communication
- Research
- Cultural
- Warwick
- Phonology
- Linguistics
- Wales
- English
- Global