



EAIE
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   #EAIE2018

Welcome to session S7.09

EUROSCHOLARS:

THE BENEFITS OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ABROAD



Geneva, Switzerland. 13 September 2018

Session outline

- Introduction
- Accommodating undergraduate research semester abroad at European institutions. (Usha Mohunlol)
- Why is undergraduate research in an international setting important for the student and academic community? (Katja Durkin)
- Why and how does a North American institution stimulate their students to do undergraduate research abroad? Benefits of undergraduate research abroad. (Marisa Moazen)
- Q & A



Who are we?

Usha Mohunlol, Coordinator Head Office EuroScholars Program based at Leiden University (The Netherlands)

- ❖ Supports the Executive Board and is the Higher Institutional Coordinator at Leiden University
- ❖ Almost 20 years of experience in the field of internationalization and international relations
- ❖ Co-writer / co-editor of the article “Undergraduate Research in Study Abroad”

<http://euroscholars.eu/advisors/euroscholars-presentations-and-publications>

Marisa Moazen, Executive Director of Undergraduate Research, University of Tennessee – Knoxville (USA)

- ❖ Develops strategy and programming for campus undergraduate research efforts
- ❖ 20 years of experience in workforce development programs
- ❖ Developing new ways to infuse undergraduate research into community engagement

Katja Durkin, Senior Manager Strategic Projects, University of Zurich (Switzerland)

- ❖ Conceptualization and implementation of initiatives of the University’s internationalization strategy
- ❖ Increasing outgoing student mobility and global experience
- ❖ 10 years of experience in higher education and internationalization



EuroScholars Program

The basics:

- Undergraduate research abroad program in Europe
- 5 highly ranked well-known research intensive universities, 4 countries
- Members of the LERU (League of European Research Universities, www.leru.org)
- For high-achieving undergraduate / honors students from North American institutions
- Minimum GPA 3.4 required
- Transfer of academic credits. Earn max. 30 ECTS / equivalent of approx. 15 US credits per semester.
- All study fields. All research and deliverables conducted in English.
- Language a/o Culture course
- Supervision
- www.euroscholars.eu

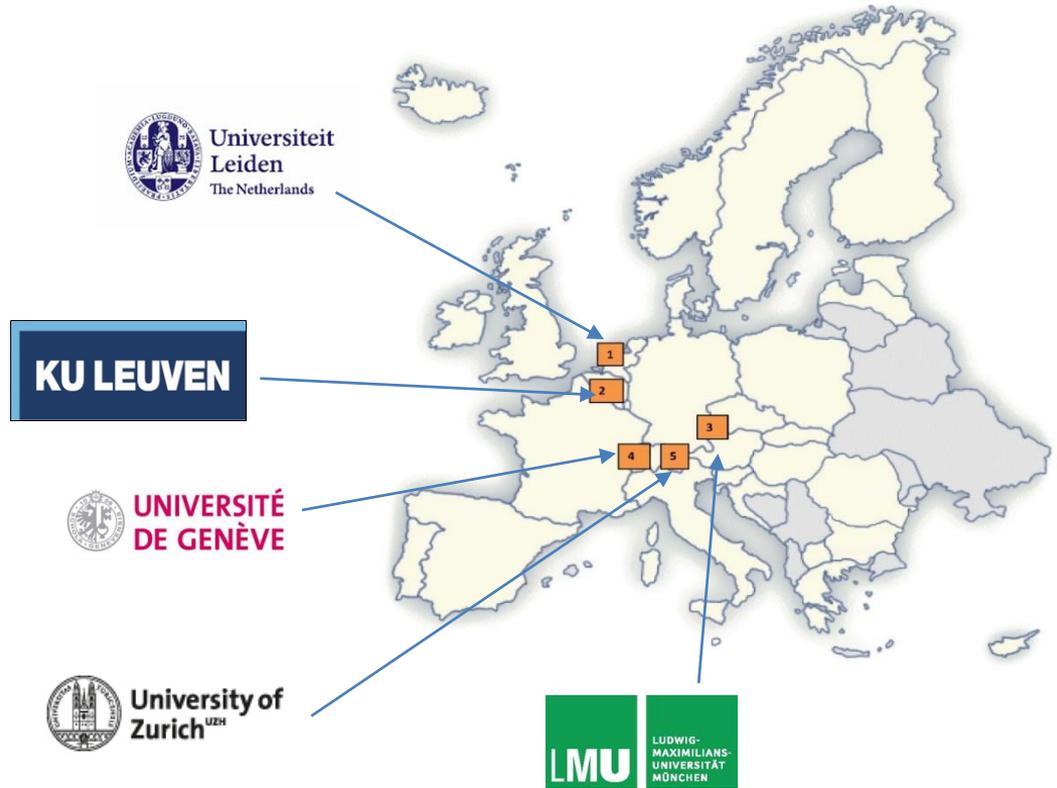


The Consortium

	THES	SJT / ARWU
Leiden University	67	88
KU Leuven	47	90
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München	34	57
University of Geneva	130	60
University of Zurich	136	58

THES = [Times Higher Education Ranking 2017-2018](#)

SJT = [Shanghai Jiao Tong Ranking/ARWU 2017](#)



The University of Zurich

Why is undergraduate research in an international setting important for the student and academic community?



Student's Perspective



Joshua Bryan (Rutgers University, New Jersey / University of Zurich, F2008). BA in Molecular Biology & Biochemistry and Economics and Rutgers School of Dental Medicine DMD.

Current Trajectory: Dentist in Lewes, DE. *“Before I had attended EuroScholars, I was still considering pursuing a PhD in a research field or in addition to my dental degree, but I found that while I found research enjoyable, it was not what I wanted to do for my career. If I had not participated in EuroScholars, I may have been much farther along my career path before I realized that I did not want to continue with research as my primary career. I think the program is a **great way to explore** another culture and be **exposed** to a different research project at the same time.”*



Emily Woods (Rhodes College, Memphis, TN / University of Zurich, F2010. BSc in Biology.

Current Trajectory: Pursuing a dual MD/PhD degree Emory University (Atlanta, GA). *“EuroScholars played a **critical role** in both my decision to pursue **this career** and in my qualifications for applying for this degree program. Without the opportunity to do research full-time in the EuroScholars program, I would not have known that I wanted to pursue a career in research. And without that research experience, I would not have been **qualified to apply for an MD/PhD program**. Moreover, my mentors at my EuroScholars site wrote recommendation letters for me, which were an important part of my applications for the MD/PhD program.”*



Student's Perspective



Andrew Goldfarb (The College of New Jersey / Leiden University, S2014). BSc in Biology, Genetics.

Current Trajectory: PhD student in Biological and Biomedical Science program at **Harvard University**. *“I absolutely loved my time in the EuroScholars Program. I say it was the most **influential experience** of my undergraduate years. It had a **huge impact** on my **personal growth** and perspective, as well as my **career goals**. Every single one of my interviews for graduate school asked about the research I did abroad. Participating in EuroScholars was the most important decision as an undergraduate student. My home university was a small liberal arts school that does not offer much on research. Having the opportunity to conduct research at a large research university **exposed me to a higher level of research that I could not have had otherwise.**”*



Idu Azogu (Rutgers University, New Jersey, NJ / Leiden University, S2009). BA in Psychology.

Current Trajectory: Teaching / research assistantship at the University of Ottawa while completing my PhD study. *“The EuroScholars experience **solidified my passion** for research and gave me an **international perspective** on how research was being conducted in another country. I am currently completing my PhD thesis dissertation, and I know that being a part of the EuroScholars program **helped to get me here**. I **improved my research skills**, bolstered up my grades, and learned to be more **independent.**”*



Students' Perspective continued ...

Different to an exchange stay or short-term mobility experience:

- Decision where to go is guided by the interest and wish for personal specialization in a particular research area
- Destination is of secondary importance
- Choice is often guided by specific research approach or research tools, which are not available at the home institution or in the US
- Opportunity to get a taste of hands-on research experience
- Helpful in deciding whether or not to aim for an academic career
- Improve profile to increase chances to get into Graduate School of choice



The local Academic Perspective

Benefits:

- Possibility to recruit high quality PhD students
- Enhanced visibility of research project
- English native speakers in research team
- Fresh ideas and a different perspective
- Students are usually very motivated

Challenges:

- Additional workload



Reasons to host international students in a research project?



What surprised you the most about participating international students?



I was really surprised by their independence. They are still very young Bachelor students, so I expected them to need way more guidance than they need in the end.

The Supervisors' Perspective



Prof. Dr. Bernhard Hommel (Leiden University)

“Visiting and working in other people’s labs often creates win-win situations: The visiting student does not only acquire hands-on experience in translating abstract theoretical concepts into practical experimental work, but is at the same time confronted with research questions and research perspectives that are likely to differ from those acquired at the home university. The visited researchers in turn get to know a fresh, presumably different view on their ongoing work and different interpretations of their findings. It is these changes in mindset that generate human creativity, so that personal exchange is at the core of successful research.”

Dr. Kerstin Klein (University of Zurich)

“Our research team learned from the student’s native English skills. I believe that undergraduate students conducting research abroad helps students to find out if they really like the idea of working in a lab. This is something that can not be learned in theory.”

Prof. Dr. Steven Verhelst (KU Leuven)

“The student performed excellent work, which gave good support to a running research project in the lab. The student had no research experience in an academic lab, the project exposed him to cutting edge research for the first time, and this was very helpful to him. Although he was a BSc student, he performed at the level of a starting PhD student. I believe that undergraduate students who are very ambitious and who would like to pursue a PhD should broaden their horizon and also get exposed to different kinds of research labs.”



The University's Perspective

Improved Visibility:

- Of the institution in the US amongst individual students and with ISA
- Of research expertise in the US amongst individual researchers and institutions
- Lasting research links

Boutique Program:

- High quality students
- Investment from individual academics (individual preparation and guidance during the stay)
- More flexibility (outside of terms, no exams, credits etc.)
- Additional service provision for student compared to other international student mobility programs (visa, accommodation etc.)



Quote by Adrien Chopin

„We need to leave home first in order to add value to what we have, but also improve at home what works better elsewhere upon our return.
Study abroad changes our perspectives and helps us leave our comfort zone ...“



University of Tennessee – Knoxville

Why expand research opportunities for our undergraduate students?

- Globalization
- Increase opportunities for undergraduate research
- Top students looking for additional ways to differentiate themselves

How did we leverage international research?

- Open to all majors
- Students with no prior research experience accepted
- Research is conducted in English
- Honors requirements – global experience and thesis



Student Outcomes

- Significant exposure to research early in academic career
- Refinement of personal goals
- Cross-cultural collaboration and intro to international scholarship
- Academic maturity
- Global competency
- Production of a paper of publishable quality
- Competitive CV for graduate school entry and career placements



Student Outcomes (specific)

- Joint publications with PI
- Opportunities for national scholarships and fellowships
- Entrance to prestigious graduate programs:
 - Cambridge University
 - Emory University
 - University of Pennsylvania
 - McGill University
 - Various medical and other specialized programs



University of Tennessee – Knoxville

Which tools did we use?

- Partnership with Center for International Education office
 - Existing agreement with ISA
 - Research Abroad seminars during Study Abroad Fairs
- Offered UGR International Research Scholarships (with both OUR and CIE)
- Targeted honors students
- Presentations to target majors – Biomedical Engineering, Pre-med, College Scholars Program
- Presented program and goals to professional advising staff



University of Tennessee – Knoxville

What's the outcome?

- Interest in international research is growing
- UT Advisors are discussing undergraduate research, including international research options during early advising appointments.
- Increased participation in EuroScholars



In the words of our students...



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE



Summary : Outcomes and impacts

- till now 20 students involved in 1 or more academic [joint publications](#) with researcher at host institution
- unique perspective on field of research
- hands-on experience on international research practices at an early stage
- improved profile for further study and career decisions
- increased academic maturity
- increased interpersonal and academic communication skills
- admission to prestigious graduate programs worldwide
- life-long transatlantic network



Questions?



**Universiteit
Leiden**
The Netherlands



THE UNIVERSITY OF
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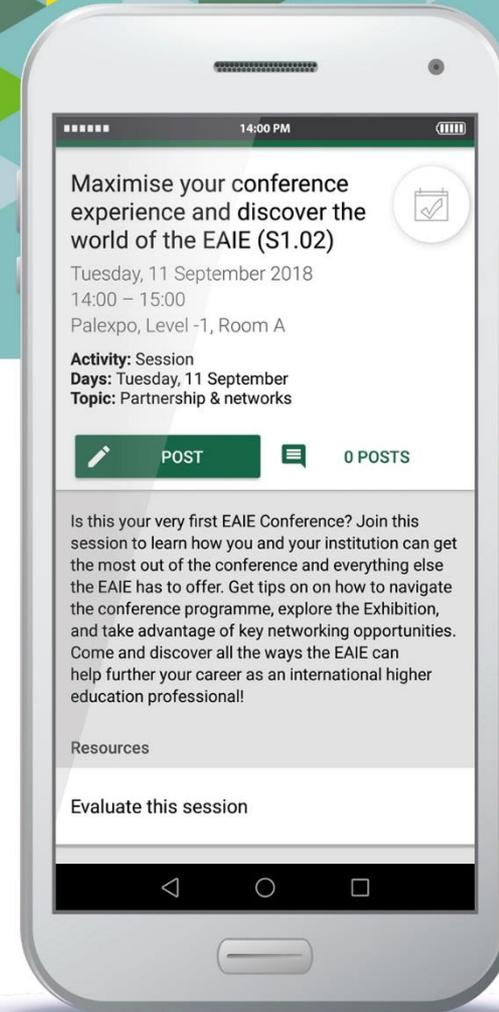
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Your feedback is appreciated!

How?

1. Open the **EAIE Events App**
2. Go to **Schedule** and find this session
3. At the bottom of the session description you will see **Resources**
4. Click **Evaluate this session** to answer a few questions



Thank you !

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