

Study Abroad Lithuania

newsletter // small country, big world



www.lcc.lt/studyabroad

LCC International University

Global Business experience

Calvin Ruth, Pennsylvania



I planned from the start of my acceptance into LCC on doing a Business Practicum. I thought it would be a great way to get involved in the community of Klaipeda, to be stretched outside of the campus of LCC, and something that would provide me with valuable work experience that I could not fully replicate while working in the United States. And there is the added obvious benefit of building my resume with international work experience, which will look good and set me apart to future prospective employers.

The Klaipeda Science and Technology Park, where I am doing my Business Practicum, has a mission to gather *“progressive thinking students full of innovative ideas, post-graduates, entrepreneurs and their enterprises in order to enhance the collaboration between science, industry and other branches of economy as well as development of high technology sectors.”* I have enjoyed seeing how this plays out in the way the company operates. At KSTP, I have been working on the planning of a conference that the Park held at the end of October. The conference included lectures from high-

profile names and companies across the world, leading discussion on Science Cooperation, Technology Transfers, and Creative Industries.

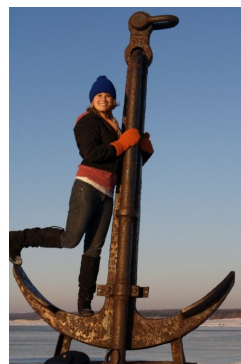
So far in my practicum I have been learning about aspects of international cooperation and integration and ideas of ways to promote collaboration in Lithuania and other Eastern European countries. I have also been gaining practical skills such as marketing techniques and social-network advertising.

I have come to appreciate the ways that working at a practicum placement in Lithuania is much different than doing the same type of work in the US. I have of course been challenged by the language barrier of not being able to communicate with many of my co-workers at KSTP. This creates an interesting dynamic, and yet one that is stretching in a great way. It has also been a motivator to work harder on my studies of the Lithuanian language, and it is a goal of mine to be able to communicate more than simply basic greetings by the end of my practicum experience. Though this is a sometimes-frustrating aspect of the practicum, it is one that should obviously be expected but not feared, and one that I have grown through and would not be able to replicate in the US.

The cultures meet here

Jennifer Carlson, Iowa

Signing up for a semester at LCC was exciting because I didn't know anything about the Lithuanian culture and I was ready to learn. Little did I know that I was going to be immersed in a community filled with so many different cultures. I knew that LCC was an international school, but I had no idea what that really meant until I got there. Living in the same room with an Albanian, Ukrainian, and a Belarusian, I discovered that I was not only learning from them, but they were learning from each other. Some of my favorite memories from my semester abroad include sitting around our table, comparing things about our cultures, or laughing about our differences until we cried. I know that I will never again have an opportunity to be surrounded by so many cultures. This, among many other factors, is why I value my time spent at LCC so much.



Learning outside the classroom

James Madej, Massachusetts



Within the first few days of arriving at LCC I received an email about volunteering at the Danes Orphanage. I knew in coming to LCC that I wanted to be active in the community and seized my opportunity with the orphanage. I generally like kids and thought that it would be good both for them

and for myself to volunteer there.

At the orphanage I spend time with the same boy every week. Usually we see how we both are doing and then play some cards and continue conversing. Often times we go out and visit different areas in Klaipeda and explore the city. If he has homework he needs help with we also do that.

In spending time with this boy I am hopefully helping him to strive to live a good life and not get into trouble.

This experience has been teaching me that I am able to connect with people in various walks of life. Even though I come from a different country and culture, I am still able to be friends with a fifteen year old boy who lives in an orphanage. I also am learning patience. There are days when I am tired, or do not want to walk anywhere, but I do it because I know that his happiness is more important than mine in those moments. Lastly, I am on a small scale learning what life is like in an Eastern European orphanage.

Of course my experience at the orphanage will be valuable to me in the United States. Not only am I learning what life is like in an orphanage and how to connect with people in different stages of life, but emotionally this experience means and will mean a lot for me. I have done different types of service before, but this is probably the least selfish I have been in performing that service. I really want to provide something, anything that will make this boy's life better. Thus, in the U.S. I hope to remember this experience in my heart and use it to help me to serve others.

Summer opportunities for faculty and students

Every summer there are opportunities for summer study abroad groups. Summer sessions run in May and June and courses are posted in February. Professors may come for a summer session and bring a group of students from their home institution. We request that the class be left open so that the LCC students may also participate in the course. This allows for maximum immersion experience for both professors and students. If there are professors at your school interested in bringing a summer group, please feel free to contact the Director of Study Abroad, Natalija Zacharova-Nausede at nznausede@lcc.lt.