2013-14 Winner: Kim Wright
Advisement Area: Woodbury School of Business
Study Abroad Program: 2014 TBD

Kim’s Winning Essay

“As a student, what would you expect from a study abroad experience? How would you want to meet your purpose and goals? Which UVU program(s) do you think would meet your expectations and why?”

The Best Money Spent First is on Education, Second on Travel

I read a metaphor about traveling that has always inspired me. Imagine getting your hands on the best book ever written and reading only one page. You set it aside and think you will get back to it later. Your friends and co-workers rave about the book with its tales of romance and adventure. They talk how this book has helped them open their eyes to new ideas and possibilities. You believe you are not missing out on anything because you have never ventured into the unknown. The only way you can get out of this rut is to take a risk. Open the book and discover what you are missing. If you don’t, you will always wonder about what could have been and maybe even regret the road not taken.

My reasons for wanting to study abroad are twofold. I am looking to gain college credit and to build my resume so I have a competitive edge. What I am really looking forward to most is having fun! I can’t wait to explore everything the country has to offer. Every experience with the study abroad program is part of my education – the work and the fun. Everything I will do, including the mundane experiences like grocery shopping and exchanging money, is educational. Where else can I push myself to experience another culture, language, and education system? The value comes from what I learn while I am there and how I am able to talk about my experiences in a way that translates into employable skills.

Choosing a study abroad program in art history may not seem to be an obvious choice for a business student. However, I can learn about Italy, which has the 7th largest economy in the world and is home to world-class companies. Problems faced in business and communities can be linked to social, political, and historical contexts as well as economics and finance. Studying art history will require me to analyze, think critically, and write well. Art can provoke people to think differently, inspire creativity, and awaken the imagination. These qualities are important for businesses. Ideas, imagination, and creativity are needed to develop a business plan, write a budget, find ways to do more with less, and see the possibilities for growth and expansion.

There is as much to explore in Italy as there is to learn. The chance to visit the Vatican museums and see frescoes from Raphael and Michelangelo, the mosaics in San Vitale in Ravenna, the beauty of Cinque Terre, and the history of Pompeii is a dream come true. How can I truly know what I want to do in the world if I have never seen it? Studying abroad is a way for me to immerse myself in another culture, learn more about the world, see things through different eyes, and have a lot of fun.