

Julie Shurts

Senior Assistant Director

Career/Education Background:

I started my study abroad career in 1998 at Rutgers University. I worked as a Study Abroad Advisor for Rutgers Study Abroad until 2003, when I decided to pursue full-time graduate studies at New York University. While enrolled in NYU's International Education M.A. program, I studied abroad in Nimes, France near the border of Provence. I was also the coordinator for the NYU in Paris office in New York as well as a tour guide for an educational tour company. When I completed graduate school I began working at NYU Study Abroad Admissions, which is now known as the Office of Global Programs. I am now going on my fifth year. I am also currently a member of NAFSA, the IIE Network, the Forum on Education Abroad and IIE's Study Abroad Advisory Group.

Why do you think students should study abroad?

Students should study abroad because there are so many incredible opportunities available. With the variety of international education programs and study abroad funding resources offered today, just about anyone can study anything anywhere. Students who take advantage of the opportunity to study abroad always come back and tell me how much it changed their lives for the better.

What advice do you have for students who are about to study abroad?

It's very important to research study abroad programs and carefully organize your priorities before deciding on a program. Think about your expectations, both academically and personally, and use all of the resources available to explore your program and destination. Be realistic. Some unpleasant or unexpected things may happen, but you will resolve them and they will become your most profound learning experiences (and most-likely your favorite stories to tell!) Don't forget that you are studying abroad to experience something different; you'll enjoy it most if you just roll with it and celebrate the differences you discern.