

January 2024 Newsletter

Happy New Year! We hope you and your students have been enjoying the last few weeks of Winter Break. After working so hard last semester, we know this time away from their educational obligations is well-deserved. As for the Parent & Family Association, we're enjoying the calm before a busy Spring semester of Board recruitment, scholarship opportunities, and preparations for the Summer NSO season.

As a reminder, Spring 2024 classes are back in session on January 16th, 2024 with students receiving an additional day off for Martin Luther King Jr. Day on the 15th. Feel free to contact us if you or your student have questions or need help preparing for the semester ahead.

Parent Tip of the Month – Talk to your students about Studying Abroad



The University of New Mexico strongly endorses the nationally recognized need to promote global awareness of, and sensitivity to, multicultural issues in today's interdependent world. In a globally-connected world, spending time in another country gives students a unique chance to grow personally, academically, and professionally. A UNM study abroad experience offers students a chance to experience another country while earning academic credit towards their degree.

We invite parents to encourage their students to discuss the possibility of a study abroad experience through the UNM Education Abroad Office. The earlier that your student begins to plan, the better prepared they will be for the experience. Early planning allows for academic flexibility, program location flexibility, and increased funding opportunities. The UNM Education Abroad Office offers over 300 programs in over 50 different countries. Your student can study abroad for a week to a whole year as part of a faculty/group-led program or as an individual student. The UNM Education Abroad Office encourages you to take a look at the resources that are available to students and their families, including our 10 Steps to Study Abroad, our Funding and Scholarships, and our FAQ's.

Here are some things that you might find useful as you start your conversation with your student:

- Scholarships and Grants – Students are eligible to use most (if not all) of their UNM scholarship and financial aid package to study abroad. This includes the Lottery and Opportunity Scholarships, Pell Grants, and other Federal Financial Aid. Additional scholarships are available just for study abroad. More information can be found on our Funding and Scholarships page.
- Credits Transfer Back to UNM – Students who receive credits on a study abroad program can have those credits transfer back to UNM and potentially count towards their degree requirements. We work with your students and their academic department to identify appropriate courses abroad and how they can count towards their degree. In short, with proper planning, students who study abroad typically do not delay their graduation date.
- Language Requirements – Students do not need to speak a second language to study abroad. While many students do study abroad for the sole purpose of learning a second language, it is not a requirement for majority of study abroad programs. I.e., students do not need to speak Japanese to study in Japan or speak Spanish to study in Spain.
- Health and Safety – The health and safety of UNM students is our top priority. We work with students throughout the study abroad process to ensure a safe experience while abroad. This includes offering various travel workshops, pre-departure orientations, required travel insurance, and a Health and Safety Advisory Committee to support students. While absolute safety cannot be guaranteed abroad, many students find that the study abroad experience is very safe.

The UNM Education Abroad Office is happy to visit with you should you have any questions. Please feel free to contact us at studyabd@unm.edu. We look forward to working with you and your students in the near future.

Todd Karr
Director of Education Abroad

From the Board – Perspectives on Study Abroad

“Last year my son attended spring semester in Amsterdam through UNM’s Global Education Study Abroad program. This was such a rich experience, and what he considers the highlight of his college years. We watched him become more confident, independent, self-aware, fiscally savvy, appreciative of being ‘in the moment’, and humble during those 8 months. That single semester was so unique and will indelibly stand out in our family’s memories. While there he was also able to affordably travel with new friends he met from all over the world and work locally over the summer. Other than airfare, our costs

were roughly the same as attending a semester at UNM. If your child is interested in travel, other cultures, broadening their perspectives, and meeting new people in a highly social setting, encourage them to consider spending a semester abroad. It really is an incredible experience, and they may never have this degree of academic/social/financial travel and study opportunity again once they leave university.”

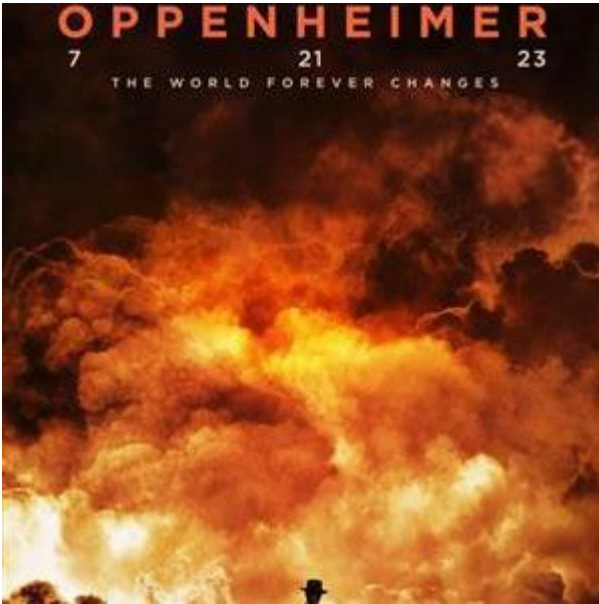
Heather Rom Bratton | 2023-2024 Board Member

“My daughter Molly, spent her Junior year (2022-2023) at the University of Salamanca, in Salamanca Spain. She had an amazing experience and recommended study abroad to anyone. Our family went to Spain to bring her home and she shared her favorite sites and cities of Spain with us. Here are the highlights to consider per Molly:

1. If you can, live in an apartment with other students instead of living in student housing, it's usually cheaper, and you'll have the opportunity to practice the language with native speakers (or you will live with other students studying abroad who want to practice). If you stay with a host family, it would be cheaper and you would form strong connections, but be prepared to not have the amount of free time you might want.
2. Connect with the **Erasmus** student network (ESN) of your city if you're in Europe, they're usually easy to find on Instagram, (ex: @esn_london or @esn_heidelberg). you'll meet a lot of other students who are also studying abroad, and they host plenty of events and opportunities to meet more people.
3. If you're in Europe and want to travel, get your ESN card (Erasmus student card) and you can get flying discounts with Ryanair and a lot of other online services. Also - use Skyscanner to find cheap flights, but be careful of third-party sites when buying them. Ryanair cancelled Molly's return ticket from London to head back to Spain, and she had to fix it in-person at the airport the morning of the flight.
4. The first month or so is HARD because you won't know a lot of people and you're trying to transition into a different language/culture/etc, so remember to take care of yourself. Go outside and explore your city! Be a solo tourist, use maps to learn how the public transport works, etc. It's not easy, but you'll meet a lot of people and make more friends sooner than you think.
5. BEFORE LEAVING the USA, when you are trying to gather everything you need for a student visa (especially if you are going to Spain), use the consulate website to keep track of everything you will need. Most consulates have that information easily available. It's safer to assume the process will take longer than the site says, because you don't want to be stuck in the US waiting for a visa that is a few weeks late.
6. If you take classes that aren't in English, try to make friends in those classes so you have someone to study with, and who can help if you don't understand something. It will make exam season so much easier.
7. The UNM health insurance only covers emergencies and is only accepted at certain hospitals, so be prepared to pay out of pocket if you have to visit the doctor or make an appointment for a medical reason. Paying out of pocket in most of Europe is around the same price as paying in the US with insurance (this is not the copay, rather the actual charge).
8. Get WhatsApp on your phone to share your experiences and pictures with your family and friends. It's easy to use and you can do video calls.”

Susanne Mahoney | 2023-2024 Board Member

Upcoming Events



Jan 12, 2023, Free Mid Week Movies: Oppenheimer

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Student Union Building Theater

During World War II, Lt. Gen. Leslie Groves Jr. appoints physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer to work on the top-secret Manhattan Project. Oppenheimer and a team of scientists spend years developing and designing the atomic bomb. Their work comes to fruition on July 16, 1945, as they witness the world's first nuclear explosion, forever changing the course of history.

Check out the trailer: [Click Here](#)

FREE Event! Take a break, Bring a friend! Please come early we will be having you sign-in before the movie!



Jan 20, 2024, SWFC Free Movie Screening: Mystery Movie – ASUNM President’s Choice

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Student Union Building Theater

Come and find out what movie we will be showing! Stay tuned!

FREE ADMISSION!



Jan 24, 2024, Free Mid Week Movies: Five Nights at Freddy’s

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Student Union Building Theater

A troubled security guard begins working at Freddy Fazbear's Pizzeria. While spending his first night on the job, he realizes the late shift at Freddy's won't be so easy to make it through.

Check out the trailer: [Click Here](#)

FREE Event! Take a break, Bring a friend! Please come early we will be having you sign-in before the movie!



Jan 26, 2024, SWFC Free Movie Screening: Rushmore

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Student Union Building Theater

When a beautiful first-grade teacher (Olivia Williams) arrives at a prep school, she soon attracts the attention of an ambitious teenager named Max (Jason Schwartzman), who quickly falls in love with her. Max turns to the father (Bill Murray) of two of his schoolmates for advice on how to woo the teacher. However, the situation soon gets complicated when Max's new friend becomes involved with her, setting the two pals against one another in a war for her attention.

To see the trailer, [click here!](#)

FREE ADMISSION!



Jan 31, 2024, Free Mid Week Movies: Priscilla

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Student Union Building Theater

When teenager Priscilla Beaulieu meets Elvis Presley at a party, the man who's already a meteoric rock 'n' roll superstar becomes someone entirely unexpected in private moments: a thrilling crush, an ally in loneliness, and a gentle best friend.

Check out the trailer: [Click Here](#)

FREE Event! Take a break, Bring a friend! Please come early we will be having you sign-in before the movie!



Feb 3, 2024, SWFC Free Movie Screening: Breaking Dawn Pt. 1 and Pt. 2

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Student Union Building Theater

At last, Bella (Kristen Stewart) and Edward (Robert Pattinson) are getting married. When Jacob (Taylor Lautner) finds out that Bella wants to spend her honeymoon as a human, he is horrified -- for Edward's passion could accidentally kill her. Bella does indeed survive her honeymoon, but a new complication arises when she discovers that she's pregnant -- and the child is growing at an alarming rate. The pregnancy sets the wolves against Bella and Edward, but Jacob vows to protect his friend.

FREE ADMISSION!

Important Deadlines – Fall 2023 All Deadlines are 11:59 PM unless otherwise noted

Jan 19th- For those in first-half courses (1st 8-week) this is the last day to ADD sections and CHANGE credit hours on LoboWEB. Per transaction fee will begin after this date.

AND

For those in first-half courses (1st 8-week) this is the last day to CHANGE grade mode on LoboWEB.

Jan 26th- For those in first-half courses (1st 8-week) this is the last day to DROP without a “W” grade and receive a 100% tuition refund on LoboWEB.

AND

For those in first-half courses (1st 8-week) this is the last day to ADD sections and/or CHANGE credit hours with completed form. Late fees apply: \$10 per transaction, \$75 after this date.

AND

For those in full-term courses this is the last day to ADD sections and CHANGE credit hours on LoboWEB. Per transaction fee will begin after this date.

AND

For those in full-term courses this is the last day to CHANGE Grade mode on LoboWEB.

Feb 2nd- For those in full-term courses this is the last day to DROP without “W” grade and receive a 100% tuition refund on LoboWEB. (DEADLINE 5:00 PM)

AND

This is the last day to PETITION for In-State Tuition Classification (continuing students only).

AND

For those in full-term courses this is the last day to ADD sections and/or CHANGE credit hours with completed form. Late fees apply: \$10 per transaction, \$75 after this date. (DEADLINE 5:00 PM)

February Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 5:30 PM – Please email parenta@unm.edu for Zoom access to this meeting.

Stay connected, join the Parent & Family Association! If you'd like to get involved, please inquire about our meetings by sending an email to parenta@unm.edu. Should you have comments or suggestions regarding any aspect of the newsletter or any ideas for topics, please reach out to us.

Best regards,
UNM Parent & Family Association

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