

# FOREVER BRIGHTER™

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY®



## PRIORITIZING STUDENT SUCCESS

# GLOBAL EDUCATION

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### **Providing Transformational Opportunities**

At Kent State, we encourage students and faculty to push beyond their comfort zone, all the way to South Dakota, New York, Florence, Geneva, Ghana and beyond. By immersing themselves in new cultural and learning experiences, they return to campus transformed, with a confidence and broadened perspective that will set the world alight.





## Caya Smarr, '19

Caya Smarr's study abroad experiences have certainly filled up her passport, with trips to Xi'an, China; Florence, Italy; Barcelona, Spain; Interlaken, Switzerland; Dublin, Ireland; Prague, Czech Republic; Amsterdam, Netherlands; London, England and Athens, Greece. Caya, a native of North Canton, Ohio, graduated from Kent State Stark in 2019 with a bachelor of arts in applied communication.

"Traveling to nine different countries built my global awareness and increased my intellectual understanding. This was a personal triumph because I was the first in my family to study and live in a foreign country," said Caya. "One of the most important things I gained from studying abroad was the growth of my confidence, independence and strength as a person."

Scholarship assistance helped to make these transformational experiences possible for Caya. She received several scholarships including the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, Office of Global Education Diversity Abroad Scholarship, College of Communication and Information Explorer Scholarship and the Terrell Wilson Memorial Scholarship.

**"As a first generation college student whose parents did not pay for my tuition, these scholarships were essential to my success.** Without these scholarships, I do not believe I would have graduated with my degree or gained once-in-a-lifetime experiences studying abroad," said Caya. "Thanks to the generosity of donors, students that need financial support can receive aid that will create a foundation and change the entire structure of their lives, and, ultimately, their communities."

After graduation, Caya accepted a marketing specialist position at the International Association of Information Technology Asset Managers, Inc. (IAITAM).



# POSITIONING OUR STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

As Kent State defines its place as a national public research university, we are committed to positioning our students for success in an increasingly global environment. The university is focused on increasing the enrollment of international students, expanding our international footprint and providing high-quality global education opportunities for all students.

Kent State offers students the opportunity to study across the globe, with 200 programs in 60 countries. Students participate in study abroad programs in Italy, France, South Korea, China, Japan, the United Arab Emirates, Costa Rica, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Ghana, Egypt and many others. Study abroad participation continues to grow, and more than 800 students travel to the Kent State University Florence Center each academic year.





## FASHION SCHOOL SETS THE NATIONAL STANDARD

A hallmark of an exceptional global university is providing life-changing experiences for students to become globally competent leaders in their fields. Kent State's Fashion School is now the first in the country to require a study away experience for all fashion students. Students in the school have the option of completing this requirement in New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Hong Kong, South Korea, London, Germany or at the Kent State Florence Center.

While global exposure is seen as critical to success for students pursuing careers in the fashion industry, many of these students are first-generation college students who attend the university on Pell Grants and face financial uncertainty about covering the costs associated with study away programming. Kent State is dedicated to removing this barrier for students via the establishment of a scholarship endowment. Our goal is to secure at least \$2 million in funding so that every Fashion School student, regardless of financial resources, has a study away/study abroad experience. We are well on our way to reaching this goal thanks to a \$1 million grant from Peg's Founda-

tion (formerly the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation) in 2017 that has already made study abroad experiences possible for 138 students. Each Fashion School student receives a \$2,000 scholarship per semester to support a study away or study abroad experience.

Kent State Florence is the **largest** American university program in Florence, Italy

**1,400+**

Students participate in study abroad experiences each year

## Alberto Yagüe Vázquez

Alberto Yagüe Vázquez's Kent State experience began when he chose to leave his home in Boadilla del Monte, near Madrid, Spain, to attend college. "I decided I wanted to study in the United States because of what it meant — I wanted freedom and independence, and I wanted to get out of my comfort zone," said Alberto, a junior majoring in Finance and Actuarial Mathematics with minors in Chinese and International Business.

He traveled to Xi'an, China, at the end of spring semester 2019 and spent a month studying Business Administration and Cross-Cultural Communication. "I learned so much during this trip, especially about Chinese culture and about the way Chinese people do business," Alberto said.

"A study abroad experience changes your mind. As a Spanish citizen living in Kent, I truly believe that every American student should have a study abroad experience. In today's globalized world, this can be a huge advantage because every day, American businesses do more and more business internationally and need employees with different cultural backgrounds and the ability to integrate themselves in other cultures," he said.

Alberto received scholarship support from the College of Business Administration and the Office of Global Education that made this experience possible for him. "A study abroad experience is life changing. It can open your eyes in so many ways. **By donating to study abroad scholarships, donors are giving students that opportunity. They are changing our lives,**" Alberto said.





# WHY IS PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT NEEDED?

Philanthropic support is more than simply important; it is essential if we are to make this vision a reality. We are engaging in an innovative philanthropic campaign to secure funds to support student scholarships for global education.

The bottom line is simple: We need supporters who understand the importance of prioritizing student success and who share our vision for the future. Those who support this campaign will deeply impact our current students and future generations of students to come. Kent State students will go on to leave their communities and our world *Forever Brighter*.

**At Kent State University, what sets us  
apart is how we come together.**

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For more information or to discuss a philanthropic gift,  
please contact us at [edabroad@kent.edu](mailto:edabroad@kent.edu) or 330-672-7980.

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