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## Student Writing Contest

The Only Student Travel Writing Contest to Cover Studying, Volunteering, Interning, and Working Abroad

The Winner Earns \$500 to Share their Student Experience (See [Guidelines](#) Below for All Cash Prizes)!



Photo by Eamee C. Lanning from [Study Abroad in Bologna](#)

### Congratulations to past Student Writing Contest Winners

**Editor's Note:** We were very pleased to receive well over 100 submissions during the past year, many of which were of exceptionally high quality. Judging the submissions proved very difficult, as there were so many excellent study, volunteer, internship, travel, and living abroad essays sent to us, each with their own unique qualities and perspectives; the contest submissions reflected a great deal of introspection, perception, compassion, imagination, and a desire for cultural immersion on the part of authors of all ages.

Thank you to all who sent in contest submissions.

|      |           |   |
|------|-----------|---|
| 2009 | 1st       | <a href="#">Learning Spanish in Quito: Immersion in Ecuadorian Culture</a> by David Joshua Jennings |
|      | 2nd       | <a href="#">Learning Medical Spanish in Costa Rica: Pura Vida</a> by Regina Toto                    |
|      | 3rd       | <a href="#">Advanced Studies Abroad in Bath, England</a> by Regina Toto                             |
|      | Runner-Up | <a href="#">A Student's Reference Guide to Studying Abroad</a> by Kayda Norman                      |

|      |            |  |
|------|------------|--|
|      | Runner-Up  | <a href="#">Study Abroad in Australia: Immersion Enhances the Experience</a> by Jennifer Fromal                              |
|      | Runner-Up  | <a href="#">Study Abroad in Brussels, Belgium: From Naive Isolationist to True European</a> by Helen Bond                    |
|      | Runner-Up  | <a href="#">Travel and Live Abroad in Chiang Mai, Thailand as a Student: A Difficult but Great Experience</a> by Kasey Weber |
| 2008 | 1st        | <a href="#">Study Abroad in Bologna: Slowing Down and Discovering the Good Life in Italy</a> by Eamee C. Lanning             |
|      | 2nd (tied) | <a href="#">Learning The Second Time Around: An Odyssey Studying, Working, and Living Abroad</a> by Nicole Tobin             |
|      | 2nd (tied) | <a href="#">Study at Nottingham University in England</a> by Elizabeth L. Hatt   |
|      | 2nd (tied) | <a href="#">Study Abroad: The Benefits of Waiting</a> by Michael Kay   |
|      | 3rd (tied) | <a href="#">Learning Abroad: Anyone (and Anything) Can Teach You a Lesson</a> by Olivia Victoria Andrzejczak                 |
|      | 3rd (tied) | <a href="#">Study Abroad in Chile: Learning Acceptance of New Ideas</a> by Tamara Smith                                      |
|      | 3rd (tied) | <a href="#">Study Abroad in Helsinki Summer School as a Mature Student</a> by Audrey Faye Henderson                          |
|      | 3rd (tied) | <a href="#">Study Abroad in Tanzania: On Borders, Bananas, and Being Back</a> by Danae Roumis                                |
|      | Runner-Up  | <a href="#">A Journey of Self Discovery: Understanding Differences Through Studying Abroad</a> by Kristen Clark              |
|      | Runner-Up  | <a href="#">In-Between Cultures: Cultural Immersion in Bangalore, India</a> by Diana Jue                                     |
|      | Runner-Up  | <a href="#">Internship for an Ethiopian NGO</a> by Sara Cornish  |
|      | Runner-Up  | <a href="#">Living and Studying in the Languedoc Region of Southern France</a> by Lola Pak                                   |
|      | Runner-Up  | <a href="#">Volunteer Work at an Archeological Dig in Greece</a> by Josiah Ramsay Johnston                                   |
| 2007 | 1st        | <a href="#">The Lasting Benefits of Study Abroad</a> by Lauren Anne Underhill  |
|      | 2nd        | <a href="#">Life Lessons in Ghana</a> by Lauren Elliott  |
| 2006 | 1st        | <a href="#">The Road Less Traveled: Grants for Independent Research Overseas</a> by Shayna McHugh                            |
| 2005 | 1st        | <a href="#">Living and Learning in Oxford</a> by Emily Hilk  |
| 2004 | 1st        | <a href="#">Beyond the Comfort Zone</a> by Kate Gustafson  |
| 2003 | 1st        | <a href="#">Planning for Study Abroad in Developing Countries</a> by Meredith Alt  |
| 2002 | 1st        | <a href="#">Irish Literature in Dublin: Disability Does Not Prevent Study Abroad</a> by Johana Schwartz                      |
| 2001 | 1st        | <a href="#">Work in the Middle Kingdom: Internships in China</a> by Christopher Moore  |
| 2000 | 1st        | <a href="#">Students' Guide to Study Abroad</a> by Chanomi Maxwell-Parish  |

## Student Writing Contest Guidelines

**TransitionsAbroad.com** hosts an annual student writing contest for all currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students, students who have graduated within the past year, and students currently on leave from school are eligible.

The following prizes will be awarded for the winning student writing submissions:

- 1st Place: **\$500**
- 2nd Place: **\$150**
- 3rd Place: **\$100**
- Runner-up: **\$50**

All winning pieces will be published on the **Transitions Abroad** website and in the monthly Webzine (*TAzine*).

Transitions Abroad has long featured regular articles on the subject of [Student Participant Reports](#), [Student to Student Advice](#), [Student Volunteer Service Learning](#), and [Internships Abroad](#) where students share information and experience with other students contemplating educational travel abroad, whether formal study abroad, internships, volunteering, or short-term work abroad.

### **What We Are Looking For in the Student Writing Contest**

Think about what you were looking for when you were planning to study, travel, work, or live abroad as a student:

- What did you need to know?
- Once you were abroad, what did you wish you had known before you left?
- Since you returned, how have you been able to fit what you did and learned abroad into your life—academic, career, and otherwise?
- Think of yourself as an adviser or counselor and your reader as a student like yourself before you decided to study abroad.
- Be specific: Vague and flowery evocations of the place(s) you were and what a wonderful time you had there are not helpful to someone preparing for his or her own trip.
- Think of yourself as a journalist seeking to tell a story with as much objectivity as possible in order to reach a wide and educated audience.
- If you write about your experience as a student with a specific program, remember that the appropriateness of the program depends upon the individual.
- If you write about one program or independent activity, please provide a list of similar programs or opportunities you researched for your reader to choose from.
- Emphasize essential **practical** information such as how you selected a program or arranged your own independent study or job or internship.
- Include a sidebar with relevant information or related programs which you considered.
- Optionally provide photographs or a Youtube.com video which will help evoke what you experienced abroad and **inspire** others to do so.

### **Word Count**

1,000-3,000 words. One or more photos preferred.

### **Student Writing Contest Deadline**

The Contest begins May 1, 2009, and all entries must be received by March 1, 2010. **Transitions Abroad Publishing, Inc.** will require first-time Worldwide Electronic rights for all submissions which are accepted as contest winners and for publication. In addition, **Transitions Abroad Publishing, Inc.** will reserve the right to reprint the story in a future publication, with additional compensation. The writer may republish the unedited submission as desired six months after initial publication on **TransitionsAbroad.com**.

**Winners will be chosen on or about March 15, 2010 and notified by phone, mail, or e-mail by April 1, 2010** for publication by **May 1, 2010** or at such time as all winners have received and cashed payment.

### **Student Writing Contest Terms**

- There is **no entry fee** required for submissions.

- Submissions that have been published during the current academic year by home academic institutions are eligible.
- **Transitions Abroad Publishing, Inc.** is not responsible for late, lost, misdirected, incomplete, or illegible e-mail or for any computer-related, online, or technical malfunctions that may occur in the submission process.
- Submissions are considered void if illegible, incomplete, damaged, irregular, altered, counterfeit, produced in error, or obtained through fraud or theft.
- Submissions will be considered made by an authorized account holder of the e-mail address submitted at time of entry.
- The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners—along with any other runners-up accepted for publication—will be paid by **Transitions Abroad Publishing, Inc.** either by check or Paypal as preferred by the author.
- All federal, state, and local taxes are the sole responsibility of the Contest winners.
- Decisions of the judges are final.

## Format

Typed in Microsoft Word and sent by e-mail to [studentwritingcontest@TransitionsAbroad.com](mailto:studentwritingcontest@TransitionsAbroad.com). Your name and your email address should be on the document and the "**Student Writing Contest 2010**" as the subject of the email. Please let us know as [webeditor@transitionsabroad.com](mailto:webeditor@transitionsabroad.com) if your submission did not get through for any reason.

## Cover sheet

Please provide a cover page with your name and contact information (address, email address, telephone number), your college or university, and your year in school or year that you graduated or expect to graduate. If you traveled on your own, list the countries and dates and what you did (worked, backpacked, etc.) If you traveled with a program, list the program name and institution, and the dates. Include your current and permanent address, your current and permanent phone number, and e-mail address if applicable. Include a short biographical note (hometown, major, etc.).

## Send to

Send electronically as an attached MS Word file which **includes** title, your name, your email address, and the story to [studentwritingcontest@TransitionsAbroad.com](mailto:studentwritingcontest@TransitionsAbroad.com). If you cannot attach as MS Word file, then please paste the article into an email message. If you have any questions about the contest, please write to the [webeditor@transitionsabroad.com](mailto:webeditor@transitionsabroad.com).

\* Please do not send a hard copy submission by mail, as it will not be judged.

For an Adobe .pdf version of this document, please see [http://www.transitionsabroad.com/information/writers/Transitions Abroad 2010 Student Travel Writing Contest.pdf](http://www.transitionsabroad.com/information/writers/Transitions%20Abroad%202010%20Student%20Travel%20Writing%20Contest.pdf).

