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*Welcome to The Study Abroad Newsletter: a brief, monthly digital newsletter from Padnos International Center that delivers updates and resources to keep GVSU faculty, staff and advisors up to date in supporting students' pursuit of study abroad programs.*

**Join us Friday!  
LAAN Professional Development  
Session: Study Abroad for  
Advisors**

Friday, October 22  
10:00 am-12:00 pm  
virtual event

[Register Now on Sprout](#)



This training is developed for GVSU academic advisors working with undergraduate students planning to study abroad. We will cover the process and basics of how GVSU students plan to study abroad academically. This will be a virtual event.

**Study Abroad Alum  
Spotlight:**

## Where are They Now?

### Mario Amaya-Velazquez

**GVSU Major:** International Relations '14

**Study Abroad Destination(s):** Italy, Jordan, Kenya

**Current City:** Chicago, IL

**Current Occupation:** Development Strategy & Operations Associate, The Obama Foundation: [www.obama.org](http://www.obama.org)



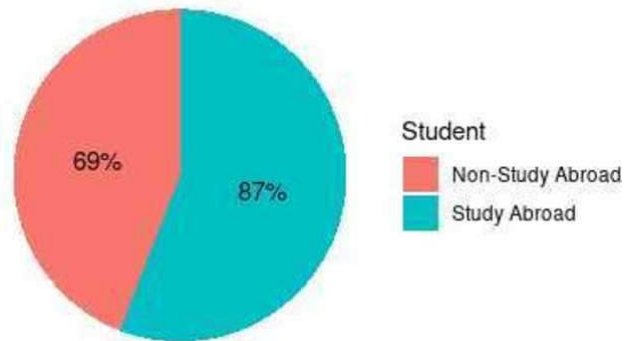
"My commitment to working in support of mission-driven service organizations was solidified by study and intern abroad opportunities in Italy, Jordan, and Kenya. These ventures abroad became my capstones in experiential learning as an International Relations major and strengthened my abilities in written communication, project planning & management, intercultural communication, and leadership in multicultural environments."

## Study Abroad Effect on Retention

Study abroad is an indicator for increased retention rates and persistence to graduation at GVSU (based on an analysis of data from the past 10 years).

[Additional Data on retention](#)

Effect of Study Abroad on Retention Rate



## Guide for GVSU academic advisors

Padnos International Center has created a new resource for academic advisors. Here, you'll find information on study abroad and academic policies and other helpful information.

[Guide for GVSU academic advisors](#)



# Study Abroad Fair

**November 1 - 14, 2021**

Are your students ready to explore their study abroad options for Summer 2022 and beyond? Consisting of in-person and virtual events throughout the first two weeks of November, students will have the opportunity to explore programs, meet with Padnos International Center staff and faculty who lead programs, learn more about scholarships and financial aid, and start planning their dream study abroad program.



## **In-person Kick Off Event**

Monday, November 1, 2021

2250 Kirkhof Center @ 12 - 4 pm

[Register NOW](#)

*Please note:*

*Due to the pandemic, we will not be hosting our traditional one-day in-person fair.*

1 Campus Drive  
130 Lake Ontario Hall  
Allendale, MI 49401

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