



Spotlight: Marc Vincent

Marc Vincent is a full professor in the Art and Art History department at BW. Since 2002, he has been the co-director of Seminar in Europe, BW's longest running faculty-led seminar. Marc is also a member of the Explorations/Study Abroad Advisory Council.

What is your involvement with the Explorations/Study Abroad office at Baldwin Wallace?

Marc Vincent (MV): I am the co-director of Seminar in Europe, which is a semester long program. Half it takes place on BW's campus, and after spring break, we travel through Europe, including Greece, Italy, Germany, France, and England. When we're on campus, we look at art, architecture, politics, culture, history, and religion, and when we're in Europe, students have the opportunity to see what they've been studying for themselves. Seminar in Europe isn't just an academic program, and being the co-director allows me to witness the personal growth of students: after participating in the program, students are more self-confident and have a curiosity about the world that they didn't have before going abroad. Studying abroad isn't just about academics (which are important!); it's also about the personal growth and maturation of students.

What have you gained from your involvement with Seminar in Europe and students studying abroad?

MV: I love being with students in a more informal environment, and I love being able to share my knowledge and enthusiasm with them.

Why should BW students study abroad?

MV: Studying abroad is a great opportunity for students to learn in a very different context: students learn different languages, how to be self-sufficient and independent, and how to think on their feet. Students also begin to see America from a new point of view: students learn to broaden their world, literally. Studying abroad

also makes students more professionally desirable if you've been abroad and know how to deal with foreign cultures and the kind of communication problems you may face overseas; you're much more marketable. Students who study abroad are also more informed about the world. The world is so small now, and we're so connected now, and studying abroad helps you both know your place in the world and better relate to the rest of the world.

What kind of international experience have you had?

MV: I was born in Paris and lived abroad for ten years. I taught on Semester at Sea (summer 2009), and have traveled quite a bit in Asia and Southeast Asia. Countries are like children: you love them all in different ways. They all have their wonderful points about them, and it's hard to compare. However, I'm emotionally closer to Paris than any other place in the world.

Do you have any advice for students who want to study abroad?

MV: When traveling, I try – and students should try – to be a traveler, as opposed to a tourist. Tourists just check things off of their list; travelers really try to understand and immerse themselves in the culture, the people, the food, and the language of the place that they're in. And, really, that's what study abroad at BW is all about. We don't want students to punch their tickets and say that they've been to Paris and Rome: we want students to have deeper insights about the culture that they're experiencing.



“My feet are killing me, I've barely slept and I went a little too long without showering for my liking. But I am so unbelievably happy. These past two weekends have been incredible. From the freezing weekend in Belgium to surprisingly sunny one in London, I'm living my dream. It's been a little manic switching from traveling to real life and then back again, but I can't complain.”
-Lauren Welford, France, Spring 2013

Megan Anderson:
Photo Contest
Winner, Fall 2012



The United Kingdom is not the same as America!: A survival guide for the unsuspecting American when living across the pond.

Dia Griffiths is a study abroad alumna from Fall 2012. She studied abroad in York, England through York St. John University.

British buildings will always be one floor shorter than American ones. This can be confusing for the American, as British 1st floors are our 2nd floors, and our 1st floor is their ground floor. When trying to find rooms and locations, always make sure to ask yourself if you are looking for the American or British 1st floor to avoid finding yourself on the wrong floor. For some reason the United Kingdom, and most of Europe for that matter, believe the 1st floor is not actually the first floor touching the ground.

“Don't Catch a Scouse!” Terms such as Liverpudlian, Scouser, Geordie, Brummies and Cockneys are not diseases that can be caught. They are an acceptable name for people, describing the location in which they are from, Liverpool, Newcastle, Birmingham and London.

Remember that different food names might result in the wrong foods. It is wise to remember that many of the delicacies loved by Americans come in different names in Britain, else you might be disappointed in ordering food. It's simple if you memorize biscuit is a cookie, chips are fried potatoes

(unless they are french fries -- such as the McDonald's kind -- , potato wedges and curly fries), crisps are chips and pudding is like a cake.

Too many hugs can be scary. As an American, it is perfectly understandable to want to hug the stranger you just met and are now best friends with. If not on the first day, then on the second. Brits are not like this; they like their space and few hugs unless they really know you. So do not expect many touchy-feely people at first, unless you want to come off as that creepy American. Do not be surprised if you go through hug withdrawal.

“Never order lemonade and expect lemonade: you will be sorely disappointed and your drink will taste like Sprite. Some places do serve ‘American Lemonade,’ and they are like an oasis in the desert.”

The United Kingdom, England, and Great Britain are not interchangeable. There is Great Britain, referring only to the actual landmass, add in Northern Ireland and you get the United Kingdom. The British Isles included Ireland

and other Islands. England is just used for the country, as is Wales, Scotland respectively. If you are still confused, keep in mind that we do



not go around calling America California or Texas.

Getting hit by a car is no fun, especially on the wrong side of the road.

If you wish to live more the one day, make sure you actually listen to your kindergarten rules and look both ways before you cross the street. You may think you know that they drive on the other side, but it will surprise you every time.

Faucets are split. It would seem that many of the sinks in Britain sport dual faucets, one for cold and one for hot water. This proves difficult when trying to wash one's hands in warm water, as one is constantly boiling and other freezing. For some reason, in the twenty-first century, plumbing is still piped through two different lines instead of a single one.

If you think everyone in England will sound incredibly sophisticated, you're going to be very disappointed. As it turns out, there are multiple accents in Britain and everyone does not sound like the Queen or those old men in afternoon sitcoms. In fact, there are so many different accents just in England alone that it can be hard to understand some of them. Be sure to listen very carefully the first time you hear a Liverpool or Newcastle Accent. If you do not understand, just nod. Do not worry however: given enough time you will become fluent, and even be able to distinguish between the different dialects, as well as whether they are from Northern or Southern England. Ireland, Wales and Scotland have their own various dialects and accents, as well as languages; do not be surprised if you hear any of those. Lastly, do not expect British people to be able to tell your accent apart either. If it is not Brooklyn, Texan or California, than you have a generic American accent.

America is big, the United Kingdom is small.

First fact to keep in mind, is American is huge. Unless a Brit has been to the US, then they may not fully comprehend this. If they ask how come many Americans have never left the US, it is because from one end to the other is the size of Europe. Since it is so big, you might run into the issue that your state has never or rarely been heard of, unless it is one of the big three, New York, California or Texas. If your state is known, little else but the name and odd fact might be known. For example, the John Denver song, “West Virginia”, is one of the few things associated with the state. If asked “Are you close to the West/East Coast?”, or “Have you been across the whole country?”, ask if they have been to Russia, and to give them an idea of size, or you can always say the United Kingdom is slightly smaller than Oregon.

In Case of an Emergency! If everything goes wrong, and you forget how to behave or what to say, stick with “cheers”. “Cheers” is a universal word for every situation. If you find yourself in a crunch and do not know the right thing to say, simply say “cheers” and give a smile.