Life Study: 
PSPA Students Abroad

Students prepare for careers in our global culture by making the world their classroom.

UND is emphasizing high-impact learning opportunities and endorses study abroad as one of the best.

Here’s what several of our PSPA students were up to in the summer of 2017:

Five PSPA majors participated in a three-week study program in China, administered by the College of Business & Public Administration (CoBPA).

Fallon Ryan, Marshall Nunberg, Whitney Klym, Logan Longtin, and Alyssa Maesse traveled to Beijing, Xi’an, and Shanghai over the course of three weeks, conducting field research on projects developed during the spring semester.

Reflecting on the trip, Fallon Ryan said, “This experience boosted my confidence in abroad travel and encouraged me to apply for scholarships I had pre-

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FACULTY PROFILE:

Melissa McShea

Melissa McShea is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science & Public Administration. She started teaching at UND in fall 2017 while in the process of completing her Ph.D. in Public Policy & Public Administration from the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy & Administration at The George Washington University in Washington D.C.

Professor McShea’s primary research area is public budgeting and finance, with other diverse research interests such as state and local tax policy, state government revenue forecasting, and economics and public policy, broadly construed.

Her research centers around state tax revenue intakes during the Great Recession. In her dissertation, she employs statistical and analytical tools to explain trends in state tax revenues from the onset of the Great Recession until recently.

Her dissertation aims to provide states a better handle on managing revenues during turning points of the business cycle and finds more information that states can use for budgeting in general.

Professor McShea’s teaching assignments during the fall semester include POLS 308 Intergovernmental Relations, and POLS 538 Public Budgeting and Financial Management. In the spring, she is scheduled to teach POLS 437 Administrative Processes, POLS 501 Political and Public Policy Analysis, and POLS 593 Seminar in Fiscal Federalism.

A native of California, she has lived mostly in the Washington D.C. area since 1981, with stays in Charlottesville, Va., and Ann Arbor, Mich., for schooling. Professor McShea is a proud graduate of the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology in Alexandria, Va. - currently the top-ranked public high school in the U.S., according to Newsweek. (Go, Colonials!)

Outside of work, Professor McShea’s interests include following current events, keeping up with Michigan Football and her alma mater’s sports teams - the Virginia Cavaliers. She is also trying to find the best-tasting pizza in Grand Forks!

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My name is Magnus Kilen Oen. I am 24 and in my third and final year as a Political Science and Business Economics double major at UND.

I’m originally from Oslo, Norway, where I have lived for most of my life. However, I have also lived a couple of years in Malta and a year in northern Norway by the Russian border.

I decided to go to UND through its partner school, American College of Norway, in Moss. After considering some different options, I decided UND was the right school for me - although I was warned about the cold.

Politics, diplomacy, and international relations have always been of keen interest to me. I have been attending international schools since I was 12, and from those experiences I believe I have formed certain insights on how many different views and customs there are out there.

At UND I have been able to focus my future goals, and I am about to apply to international relations and diplomacy masters programs in Europe and the U.S., now that I am finally certain I know what I want to do.

Magnus Oen (featured at left) spent seven weeks in Cuba last summer studying U.S.-Latin America relations. He lived with a roommate in an apartment, where he was immersed in Cuban daily life.

“The people from the program were from all over the world, and I would recommend it to anyone,” he said.

After finishing up spring finals, Kyra Palmer boarded a flight to Norway to start a new semester at the American College of Norway (ACN), UND’s sister school in Moss.

The experience boosted her cross-cultural skills and her confidence as she built relationships “that will benefit me in my future career and life.”

ACN also has a faculty exchange. PSPA Chair Paul Sum spent a recent summer there teaching Norwegian and American students, and in 2018 PSPA Associate Professor Brian Urlacher will take a turn.
ALUMNA PROFILE:
Alina Heineke

Alina Heineke graduated from UND in 2004 with a B.A. in Political Science and German. She went on to pursue a Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Iowa, where she focused her research on a link between corruption and terrorism.

She has always been passionate about journalism, and her writing initially appeared in UND’s Dakota Student newspaper. It has always been obvious to her that she would like to continue reporting professionally after completing her education.

Alina’s first job in journalism took her back to her home country, Ukraine, where she worked for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) for three years, covering political developments and the state of the media in Eastern Europe and former Soviet countries.

After a short residence in London, she moved back to the United States to work for the oldest news agency in the world, The Associated Press (AP). Alina’s current role as a news producer entails coordinating AP’s global coverage across multiple formats, ensuring that the agency’s reporting remains competitive, in line with editorial standards, and well-promoted in social media.

She lives in New York with her husband and infant son.

MPA Program News

Efforts to align the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program with the recently-adopted One UND Strategic Plan have included identifying and eliminating barriers to admission and graduation and partnering with other programs.

We are examining policies to accept considerable work experience in lieu of the Graduate Record Exams (GRE) and are building stronger relationships with other programs.

Health Administration is projected as an area of significant employment growth in the next 5-10 years, and our relationship with the Master of Public Health program in the School of Medicine & Health Sciences provides additional curricular opportunities for MPA Students specializing in Health Administration.

We are also working with the Master of Business Administration and Master of Accountancy programs to provide Business and Government and Public Administration concentrations for their students.

The program was recently rated number 8 nationally by geteducated.com as a “Best Buy.” It was also ranked nationally as a “Top 30 Best Online” MPA program by thebestschools.org.
Recent Faculty Research . . .

Research raises the profile of the department and benefits students by keeping the faculty up to date on the latest trends and methods in the discipline. Here is a selection of recent work. Current PSPA faculty members’ names are in bold:

- **Laura Hand** “Producing a Vision of the Self-Governing Mother: A Study of Street-Level Bureaucratic Behavior in Coproducative Interactions,” forthcoming in *Administration and Society* (currently available online).

