

Alternate programs offer study abroad opportunities to students

Kate Bergum, Assistant News Editor | Posted: Friday, February 20, 2015 6:00 am

Students looking for adventure can use spring break as an opportunity to study abroad, and they do not necessarily have to go through an OU program.

Alternate programs, such as the company Oklahoma Study Abroad, offer short-term study abroad experiences with an option for college credit, according to the company's website.

The Oklahoma City-based company is offering three trips to England during OU's spring break, according to the website. A program traveling to London and Stratford-upon-Avon is offered in conjunction with Oklahoma City Community College, and two trips will travel to London and Oxford, one from Southwestern Oklahoma State University and one through Seminole State College.

The week of spring break can be just enough time for a student to experience a foreign locale, said Christian Alyea from Oklahoma Study Abroad. Though students will only be in England for eight days, he hopes that they leave the program with a good understanding of London and how to navigate the city in the future, Alyea said.

Students are expected to use public transportation and use graduate student guides from the city they are going, Alyea said. The setup prepares students for future study abroad opportunities for longer periods of time.

"That's our number one goal — to get as many students from Oklahoma abroad and open that door for them," Alyea said.

It is too late to join any of the spring break trips now, but Oklahoma Study Abroad schedules trips during the short break every year, Alyea said.



Study Abroad

Christian Alyea with Oklahoma Study Abroad visits London during Spring Break 2014. Oklahoma Study Abroad works with smaller universities to get students to go on study abroad programs over Spring Break for credit or for not. The group will be going with three different groups of students from various universities in Oklahoma to London this spring break.

Though no OU students are attending the current Oklahoma Study Abroad spring break trips, Oklahoma Study Abroad trips have been popular with OU students before, Alyea said.

Sports management freshman Lauren Bishop attended an Oklahoma Study Abroad program and traveled to Ireland and Italy, Bishop said in an email.

The experience in Europe was incredible, Bishop said in an email. She learned a lot of history about the places she visited within the short two-week time frame.

Bishop was not able to receive credit for her program because it offered journalism credit that she did not need for her major, Bishop said. However, the experience of her trip was worth it even without the credit.

If students want to go on a study abroad trip similar to those offered by Oklahoma Study Abroad, Bishop suggests they have an open mind and enjoy the experience, she said.