EXPERIENTIAL LEARNIN
at St. Lawrence University
Blending the Academic, Exploratory & Entrepreneurial
Experiential Learning is Transformative.

By moving beyond the textbook and actively integrating study, work and personal growth, students are introduced to complex situations that can shift perspectives, challenge judgment, prompt knowledge exchange, and inspire passion for deliberative discourse and participation in our society.

I think some people look at studying abroad as a chance to study in a new, awesome place for a few months. But spending the semester in London was much more than that, thanks to the internship component. I wasn’t just a student; I was an integral part of a professional team and the experience made me apply everything I learned in class to the real world immediately.

STUDY ABROAD & OFF CAMPUS
St. Lawrence University supports 25 off-campus programs (nine of its own) in 19 countries that allow students to enrich their majors, expand their world, gain cross-cultural perspectives and skills, and prepare them to be responsible global citizens. These programs foster deep cultural immersion, typically through homestays, language study and course work before, during and after the off-campus program. Few colleges or universities allow students to study abroad in their first year, but St. Lawrence students can elect the London First-Year Program in their first semester, and the Global Francophone Cultures Program in the spring of their first year.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
Primary research is an integral part of a St. Lawrence education no matter what majors students pursue. Encouraged to question what they think they know, students engage with faculty in discovery, creativity and innovation for hands-on, laboratory and field research across all disciplines. Research funding through scholarships, fellowships and grants is available for students who wish to extend their research under close supervision by a faculty member or to pursue it off-campus. The results can culminate in the form of oral and poster presentations at our on-campus Festival of Science, Creativity and Scholarship or even possible publication in scholarly journals. Regardless of the presentation media, students evolve as investigators, critical thinkers and communicators — all desirable skills for their future careers.

SERVICE LEARNING
Opportunities abound for students to participate in service learning projects in the North Country. St. Lawrence County is the largest county in the state and the seventh largest county east of the Mississippi River. Through structured courses or independent studies, students volunteer for community service in the North Country or in other communities.

70% of students volunteer for community service in the North Country or in other communities.

ST. LAWRENCE ABROAD PROGRAMS
- Adirondack Semester Program
- France
- Global Francophone Cultures (Canada, France, Senegal)
- Kenya
- Liberal Arts in New York City
- London
- London First-Year Program
- Spain
- Sustainability Semester

PARTNER PROGRAMS
- Australia (James Cook University)
- Austria (Austro-American Institute)
- Canada (Trent University)
- China (CIEE)
- Costa Rica (University of Kansas)
- Czech Republic (CIEE)
- Denmark (DIS)
- India (NYSICCSI)
- International Student Exchange Program (ISEP)
- Italy (Lorenzo de Medici)
- Italy (University of Georgia)
- Japan (Kansai Gaidai University)
- Jordan (AmidEast)
- Nashville, TN (Fisk University)
- New Zealand (University of Otago)
- Thailand (Chiang Mai University)
- Trinidad (Pacific Lutheran University)
- Washington DC (American University)
- Washington DC (The Washington Center)
students can enroll in the Community-Based Learning program to work in local schools, farms, correctional facilities and agencies that serve community needs, the elderly, meal programs and more. Themed on-campus housing is even available for student groups so they can integrate civic responsibility into their residential life. Each spring, students reflect on and share their experiences at the Festival of Community-Based Learning.

67%
OF STUDENTS COMPLETE INTERNSHIPS.

INTERNSHIPS & SHADOW PROGRAMS
Sponsored by alumni or partnering government, nonprofit and for-profit employers, internships during winter and summer breaks are learning opportunities that build skills and open doors for future careers. They have a history of being so successful that 85 percent of our 2014 graduates completed an internship while studying at St. Lawrence. Previous locations have included New York City, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, D.C., and even as far away as Beijing. One- to five-day shadow programs hosted by alumni and parents offer shorter exposure to various career fields, interests and locations. Students also can earn academic credits for approved on- or off-campus internships throughout the academic year in conjunction with a departmental course, independent study, student teaching, or the Career Connections Internship course.

MENTORSHIPS & NETWORKING
St. Lawrence alumni and parent networks offer unbeatable mentoring and networking opportunities. They represent a diverse set of industries, class years and connections to the University. Through the Laurentians Investing in Networking and Careers (LINC) program, first-year and sophomore students are matched with mentors at a fall on-campus event and then maintain monthly contact throughout the year. Some mentorships result in internships or shadow experiences.

Students in all years can take advantage of professional preparation workshops, networking events on- and off-campus, and site visits. The SLU Connect-DC program, for example, sends students to the nation’s capital for six days to meet with successful alumni in a variety of professions, tour government agencies, listen to panel discussions, and attend networking events, site visits and alumni-led workshops.

BOOT CAMP
In January, before the spring semester, Career Connections hosts a two-day “Boot Camp” on campus to foster a student culture of early career engagement and planning. Open to sophomore students, the program includes workshops, panels and events designed to introduce various career fields and begin building skills such as resume development, interviewing, networking and internship sourcing.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Certainly, there is no minimum age requirement to be an entrepreneur. Some Laurentians have started their own businesses even before they set foot on campus. So St. Lawrence has several partnerships that support their entrepreneurial interests, including relationships with Clarkson University’s Shipley Center for Innovation and the Canton Small Business Development Center.

Thanks to an Internship Fellowship Award through the University, EMLYN CROCKER ’15 had her living and transportation expenses offset during her internship experience with the Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks (“The Wild Center”) in Tupper Lake, New York.

Emlyn applied to be an animal care intern, expecting to learn how to care for and interact with the approximately 400 animals and fish that the Wild Center takes in during any given year. What she didn’t expect was the level of involvement she would have with the center while there.

“I ran public programs, gave lectures about the animals and interacted with people all the time, asking them about animals they see in the wild,” she said.

Beyond the experience of working with animals and educating the public, Emlyn also got to witness first-hand the operation of a nonprofit institution, and one with a specific focus on sustainability.

Jeremy Mwenda ’11 software programmer, empirx inc.; Computer Science and Economics double major
St. Lawrence alumni are always willing to be mentors to students and other alumni. It was through a Career Services networking event that I met an alumnus who helped me get an interview for my current job. Whether you’re looking for an internship or guidance on choosing a career path, alumni are there to help.
When students graduate from St. Lawrence, their experiences transcend their academic transcripts and even their resumes. They are critical thinkers, intellectual risk-takers and problem-solvers. Experimenting comes naturally, leading to ease with both success and failure – a characteristic crucial to continued growth as learners.

Ninety-four percent of alumni who graduated five years ago report that they feel their jobs are directly or somewhat related to their overall career goals. Typically, more than half of St. Lawrence alumni pursue a graduate degree at some point. Some launch their own businesses. Others choose service careers that were influenced by their study abroad and service learning experiences.

QUITE SIMPLY, LAURENTIANS ARE READY TO DO GREAT THINGS.
97% of our recent graduates were employed or enrolled in graduate and professional schools within a year after graduation.

RESOURCES

Career Services works with students to identify and explore career interests as well as research and apply for internships and jobs.

Student Center, Room 202
315-229-5906
careers@stlawu.edu

Career Connections provides programming designed to encourage early career engagement and facilitates the integration of academic and professional development, including internships for academic credit. The office also aids students with entrepreneurial interests.

107 Vilas Hall
315-229-5768
gfalen@stlawu.edu

Center for Civic Engagement provides opportunities for academic activities within a living-learning community where students work together with community partners to develop and direct projects that address locally identified needs.

4 Whitman Annex
315-229-5095
cc@stlawu.edu

Patti-McGill Peterson Center for International and Intercultural Studies facilitates student participation in off-campus study programs.

108 Carnegie Hall
315-229-5991
ciis@stlawu.edu

Laurentians across the generations: Melanie Smeallie Mbuyi ’77, a program officer in the Africa section of the World Bank in Washington, D.C., sponsored intern Jingru Hu ’17.