

*Front cover: Midshipmen hiking during the 2019 Polar
Science and Technology experience in Norway*



2019-2020 STEWARDSHIP REPORT

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFICE (IPO)

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

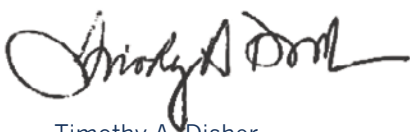
The mission of the Naval Academy's International Programs Office (IPO) is to enhance the globalization of midshipman education by providing experiential opportunities, increasing foreign language proficiency and enabling regional understanding and cultural appreciation. Thanks to the commitment by the Naval Academy community through philanthropy, more than 4,400 midshipmen have participated in international experiences since 2005.

Our 15th year was one to remember. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 34 midshipmen who were studying abroad for the spring semester returned safely and resumed their classes online with their international partner or they quickly shifted back to a USNA program with the help of our world-class faculty. Unfortunately, we did not send any midshipmen abroad during the summer nor are we sending midshipmen for the fall semester due to the necessary safety protocols. The first opportunity to get midshipmen and faculty abroad, about which we are guardedly optimistic, will be for the spring semester 2021.

One of the highlights from the year was that the Naval Academy became the first service academy recognized by NAFSA: Association of International Educators with the 2020 Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization. This award distinguishes excellence in integrating international education through all facets of college campuses. We are proud of this recognition and look forward to being featured in the *International Educator* magazine this fall as well as at a virtual awards reception held in Washington, D.C. in November.

In the 2019-2020 academic year, 335 midshipmen traveled to 40 countries around the world thanks to the generosity of so many alumni and those in the Naval Academy community. This year also marked the largest number of midshipmen to go on a semester study abroad – 94.

We are incredibly appreciative of the support across the Naval Academy family and we are hopeful to see you in person soon.



Timothy A. Disher
Director, International Programs



SEMESTER STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM



Midshipman hiking the German Alps

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 94

COUNTRIES VISITED: 22

Argentina, Canada, Chile, China, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Morocco, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan and the United Arab Emirates

Semester-long study abroad programs are opportunities for midshipmen in their junior year or in the first semester of their senior year. Although the largest number of these midshipmen are science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) majors, many of them enhance their experience by enrolling in programs that are immersed in the host country's language.

Some of these programs are reciprocal, meaning that midshipmen study with counterpart naval academies in countries such as Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Singapore, South Korea and Spain. As the Semester Study Abroad Program continues to grow, IPO expects to send midshipmen to Austria, Australia, Brazil, Ireland and Peru within the next few years. The following programs are just a few examples of the semester study abroad opportunities from this past academic year.



Singaporean Officer Candidate School Graduation

"My semester abroad in Singapore challenged me both academically and socially, allowing me to undergo tremendous growth as an individual and a leader. As a result, I am much more confident in my abilities to take on challenges and to learn to become comfortable in foreign environments. I plan on taking the lessons I learned this semester with me for the rest of my life."

— MIDN R.J. Serrato '21



Midshipman visiting with locals in a market in Accra, Ghana

ISRAELI NAVAL ACADEMY:

This specialized, nine-month program is with the Israeli counterpart naval academy at the University of Haifa. USNA midshipmen participated in one of the trimesters after completing a Hebrew language intensive program at Givat Haviva. Givat Haviva, established in 1949, is the national education center of the Kibbutz Federation and was awarded the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education for its longstanding work in promoting Jewish-Arab dialogue and reconciliation.

SPANISH NAVAL ACADEMY:

Since 2007, this exchange program has taken place with the Spanish counterpart naval academy. All graduates complete a degree in mechanical engineering facilitated by faculty from the University of Vigo. This intensive immersive experience includes all elements of academic, physical and professional activities.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN:

UCT is South Africa's oldest university and USNA midshipmen participated in the rigorous academic program as well as in service learning so that they understood some of Cape Town's most pressing social issues.

ARAB AMERICAN LANGUAGE INSTITUTE IN MOROCCO:

AALIM's primary institute is in the Old Medina of Meknes, Morocco. It is one of the most historic and important cities in Morocco, as well as a thriving metropolis. Midshipmen were fully immersed in Arabic language courses and a few enhanced this experience at the university by enrolling in French language classes.

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA:

University of Ghana is ranked as the number seven university in Africa for its focus on humanities, basic and applied sciences, education and health sciences. Midshipmen took a full course load as well as participated in extracurricular activities and excursions beyond the city to enhance classroom learning and provide intercultural understanding.

UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD:

Midshipmen explored Indian culture in a diverse, cosmopolitan city, while taking courses at the University of Hyderabad. They participated in a rigorous academic program, which included foreign language study, extracurricular activities and cultural excursions.

LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAMS



Midshipman overlooking the Dead Sea

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 56

COUNTRIES VISITED: 10

China, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Morocco, Oman, South Korea and Taiwan

The Language Immersion Programs are focused on language development and proficiency. One of the most interesting programs is the Critical Language Scholarship Program sponsored by the U.S. State Department, where midshipmen study at universities focused on the Chinese and Arabic languages. Next year, the International Programs Office expects to offer summer language programs for all seven languages taught at USNA. The following two programs are examples from this past year.

“My time at the National Defense Academy of Japan opened my eyes to see other perspectives of the universal values of leadership and military development. As a result of this experience, I feel more confident as a future surface warfare officer to start my naval career.”

— ENS Jacqueline R. Ramos '20, USN



Group photo of USNA midshipmen with the other semester exchange students and their hosts at Japan's National Defense Academy

HANGZHOU NORMAL UNIVERSITY:

Ten midshipmen attended a six-week language immersion program comprising six-week intensive language learning, three cultural excursions and two weekend overnight trips. The participants took 130 hours of language-intensive classes including lectures, drill sessions, one-on-one office hours, tutorials and homework. The intensity of this immersion Chinese learning, which is equivalent to the two-semester course load at the Naval Academy, enabled the participants to jump ahead one level in their Chinese courses upon return.

The participants also attended culture classes for two hours every week in traditional Chinese paper-cutting, calligraphy, taiji and cooking. The midshipmen also participated in local trips to museums and historic attractions, such as the Grand Canal and a traditional tea ceremony. In order to experience both modern and traditional China, midshipmen traveled to Shanghai, Nanking, Xi'an and Beijing.

STEM MIDDLE EAST:

In summer 2019, midshipmen participated in a six-week program focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and promoting an understanding of the Arabic language and the people of Israel. The first phase of the program took place at Naval Academy with ten intensive days of learning Arabic. The midshipmen also took courses focused on culture to help create the foundation for the next phase at Haifa University.

The STEM Middle East program in Israel included intensive academic instruction of Modern Standard Arabic [MSA], the Palestinian dialect and Arab culture, along with additional practice and coursework required outside of class. The field trips include destinations such as the Sea of Galilee, Tiberius, Zefat, the Golan Heights, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Masada, the Dead Sea and Eilat. These trips developed the midshipmen's multicultural awareness through daily exposure to native speakers.

The midshipmen also participated in community service. They attended three meetings (around 12-15 hours) with Arabs with special needs. The experience increased their understanding of the complexities of national relations and the multifaceted challenges they all face. Working with blind Arabs, acutely mentally impaired children and physically disabled Arab adults was a unique and rewarding experience.

From hours of daily intensive language instruction in the classroom to historical and cultural tours across Israel and community service, the STEM Middle East Program is academically, culturally and linguistically rewarding. The opportunity to see firsthand the blending of Arab, Jewish, and Christian cultures was particularly important to the mission and provided a valuable perspective on the social and political atmosphere of the country.

"Not once did I think I would be able to immerse myself in the culture let alone learn the language in its homeland. It has been an awe inspiring few weeks."

– MIDN Jakub Hill '21



CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES



Midshipmen catching a ride on a YP along the coast of Rio

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 178

COUNTRIES VISITED: 26

Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Estonia, France, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Vietnam

IPO engages midshipmen in faculty-led excursions in order to develop global awareness and cross-cultural appreciation. These trips vary in length, location and attendance, but all have a great impact on the personal and professional development of the midshipmen. The following trips are just a few of the experiences that were offered in the 2019-2020 year.

UNITED KINGDOM: SPRING BREAK 2020

FUNDED BY THE CLASS OF 1995 INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS SUPPORT FUND

The trip to the United Kingdom was made possible by the Class of 1995 International Scholars Support Fund. During the Naval Academy's Spring Break from 6-15 March 2020, LCDR Lawrence Ungar, USN and four midshipmen participated in a cultural immersion experience with the British Royal Naval College (BRNC).

The Class of 1995 International Scholars were able to work alongside officers of the British Royal Navy to better understand the important relationship it has with the United States. Midshipmen performed close-order drills, participated in physical fitness classes, attended academic classes and practiced seamanship skills on the river.

A secondary objective of the trip was to be immersed in British culture and society. On their travels to and from the BRNC, they stopped in several U.K. and European cities that offered insight into the BRNC's long history. The midshipmen described touring HMS VICTORY and attending the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London as their favorite cultural and historical experiences.

AUSTRALIA: SPRING BREAK 2020

FUNDED BY THE PIKE FAMILY SCHOLARS FUND

The experience to Sydney, Australia was made possible by the Pike Family Scholars Fund. Their trip in March 2020 included four midshipmen as well as Lt. Tyler Narby, USN and SSgt Anthony M. Baudanza, Jr., USMC.

They were all incredibly grateful for the opportunity to visit Australia, be immersed in the culture and build lasting relationships while shadowing Australian midshipmen around the Australian Defence Force Academy. During their week there, the group forged bonds that will continue far into the future.

The most crucial way that this trip developed the future officers was to provide insight into one of our global military alliances. As a group, they felt that they learned the extent of the value in these alliances. Meeting with the senior Australian officers at the Australian Defence Force Academy, the midshipmen learned about the relations between the U.S. military and the Australian military, such as with the operations in the Middle East. Hearing about these made them optimistic for strong relationships in the future.

Finally, the shared experiences with the Australian midshipmen forged bonds that will continue into the fleet. These interactions were the key resource in learning everything about the culture, way of life and the structure of the Australian Defence Force Academy. The entire experience provided all involved the ability to meet new people and shift their perspective on the international alliances that they will continue to build in their future as Navy and Marine Corps officers.



USNA and members of the Australian Defence Force Academy at the Australian Parliament

INDIA REGATTA: WINTER 2019

FUNDED BY THE TAYLOR FAMILY INDO-PACIFIC SCHOLARS FUND

Two midshipmen and Major Brian Hawkins '01, USMC, traveled to the Indian Naval Academy (INA) for the 10th annual Admiral's Cup Sailing Regatta. The Admiral's Cup was instituted in 2010 by the Yachting Association of India as a forum for competition in sailing among the officer trainees of foreign navies.

The regatta took place in Kerala, India, on Ettikulam Beach from 10-13 December 2019. Twenty-seven countries competed in the event, with 54 participants displaying their sailing skills at the regatta. Countries were invited to bring two participants, preferably one male and one female, to sail the single-handed Laser Radial class of boats.

Midshipman 2/C Kelly Milliken finished first in the individual position in the women's category and Midshipman 3/C Gray Benson finished in fifth place for the men. Together, they placed second overall, with Israel taking first and Singapore in third. Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, INA, was the chief guest for the closing ceremony and presented the Admiral's Cup, the Runners' Up trophy and individual prizes to the competitors.

The trip was described as impactful for three reasons: the high level of interaction with foreign naval personnel, the in-depth experiences of Indian culture and the ability to represent and compete for the U.S. Naval Academy on an international level. This was an exceptional and unforgettable opportunity for the midshipmen and Major Hawkins to interact with foreign services and to represent the USNA.



Midshipmen receiving their trophy after competing at the 10th Admiral's Cup Sailing Regatta in India

NORWAY: SUMMER 2019

FUNDED BY THE BOEING IPO SUPPORT FUND

Four midshipmen traveled to Norway in June 2019, sponsored by the Boeing Corporation. CDR Keith Thompson, USN of the USNA Oceanography Department and CDR Russell Ingersoll, USN of the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory led the group. This focus of the 2019 Polar Science and Technology trip was to expose USNA midshipmen to:

- International, Arctic-related, collaborative science and technology (S&T) activities
- Immerse participants in the rich history and culture of Norway
- Engage midshipmen on broader socio-political military issues in the North Atlantic and Arctic region through interactions with Norwegian academic agencies, universities and the military

Prior to departure, the midshipmen participated in briefings on Norwegian politics, economy history, culture and international S&T collaboration in the region. In addition to Oslo and Tromsø, midshipmen spent four days above the Arctic Circle in Longyearbyen, on the island of Svalbard and had a final stop in Bergen, Norway. Official activities included visits with policy makers, scientists, engineers and students from: the University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS), the Kongsberg Satellite Services SV ALSAT facility on Svalbar; the University of Tromsø (UiT) K.G. Jebsen Centre for the Law of the Sea; the UiT Centre for Sarni Studies; the UiT the Centre for Arctic Gas Hydrate, Environment and Climate; the UiT Department of Engineering and Safety; the Norwegian Polar Institute and the Arctic Council Secretariat.

In Bergen, officers and cadets from the Royal Norwegian Naval Academy hosted the team, where they observed training, visited the main Norwegian Navy base at Haakonsværn (to include frigate, logistics and submarine boat tours) and participated in Norwegian small arms training at their on-base shooting range. The team was also able to include some local outdoor adventures, including hiking and snowshoeing through fjords and glaciers, kayaking in Tromsø during "midnight sun," and a tour of beautiful Osterfjorden—a 639 meter deep Norwegian fjord running 27 kilometers past the villages of Knarvik, Leknes, Eikanger, Hosanger, Fotlandsvag, Ostereidet and Tysso.

Throughout the trip, the midshipmen learned about the close economic, military and political relationship between the U.S. and this critical Arctic and NATO partner. They finished the trip with a better understanding of the role that international science and technology collaboration can play in fostering this relationship. Throughout their experiences during the Norway expedition, midshipmen gained invaluable skills as world travelers and global citizens, developed a heightened awareness of Norway culture and ultimately received leadership exposure that will benefit them as future U.S. Navy and Marine Corps officers.

"Studying abroad in Tel Aviv, Israel helped me further my understanding of the complex Middle Eastern landscape. The experiences I had abroad have challenged me to better myself morally, mentally and physically to become the best midshipman I can be. It has prepared me to lead in today's dynamic, multicultural Navy and Marine Corps."

— MIDN Ethan J. Dupre '21



Midshipmen with classmates during training while studying in Israel

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING WITH FOREIGN NAVIES



Midshipman at the Escuela Naval Arturo Prat in Valparaíso, Chile

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 7

COUNTRIES VISITED: 5

Chile, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Portugal

There are also opportunities for midshipmen to conduct hands-on professional training with counterpart naval academies. For the Chile and Mexico programs, recent graduates embark for 5-7 months prior to reporting to their first U.S. duty station.



"Going to Chile was definitely a challenging and rewarding experience. While adapting to the culture and language was a struggle at first, it became almost second nature. I grew a lot as a person there, made some excellent friends, vastly improved my Spanish, gained new perspectives on leadership and learned so much about an allied nation. For the rest of my life I will cherish this opportunity I received."

— MIDN Jack Cordero '20

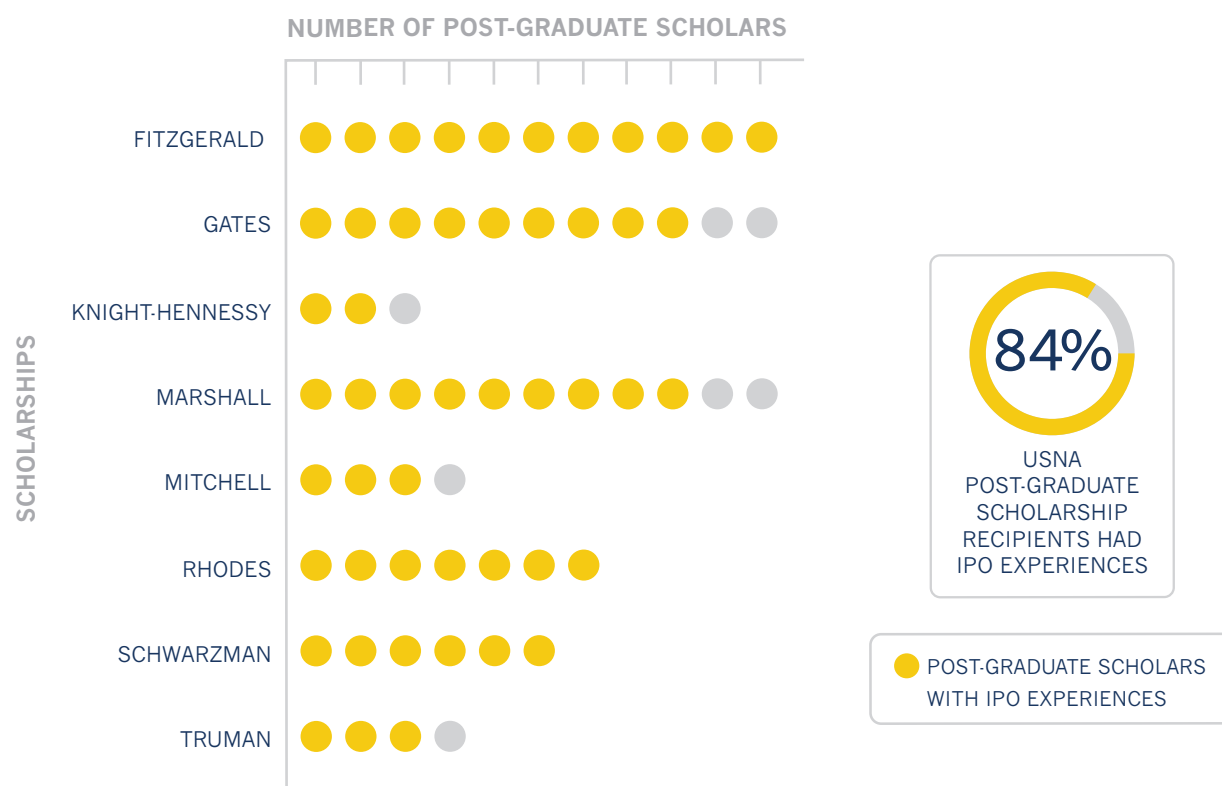
USNA midshipmen joining Spanish midshipmen during a rainy afternoon of sailing

IPO LOOKING FORWARD

In the 2020-2021 Academic Year, IPO continues to seek donors to fund international programs. The office has been successful in recently being able to fund the language studies abroad programs for Arabic, Chinese, Japanese and Russian. Priorities for the next cycle include:

- Continue to safely navigate the COVID-19 environment for international opportunities
- Seek funding for foreign language immersion programs in French, German and Spanish
- Seek funding for STEM majors in Chinese, French and Spanish language immersion programs
- Establish semester exchange programs with counterparts from Australia, Austria, Brazil, India, Ireland and Peru
- Increase partnerships with counterpart naval academies through participation in USNA midshipmen-led conferences and USNA summer professional programs

NUMBER OF POST-GRADUATE SCHOLARS WITH IPO EXPERIENCES



THANK YOU

Thanks to the generous support by the Naval Academy community, the International Programs Office is nationally recognized for excellence in internationalization, innovation and creativity. Because of this, the Naval Academy can continue to expand upon programs that transform the personal and professional lives of midshipmen and faculty. Thank you for your commitment to the mission of the International Programs Office.