SIT Study Abroad alumni are working and studying as:

Ornithological researcher at Jocotoco Foundation, Ecuador
Forestry/carbon sequestration manager & advisor at La Hesperia Reserve, Ecuador’s Western Cloud Forest
United Nations research assistant in Ecuador
Truman Scholarship recipient continuing research at the postgraduate level
Fulbright fellows
PhD candidate at the Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin–Madison
Country representative to Mongolia with Global Green Growth Institute

PhD candidate at Indiana University
Graduate-level research assistant (MA in marine affairs) at the School of Marine and Environmental Affairs, University of Washington, Seattle
Assistant field director, Center for American Indian Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Arizona
Fisheries technician at Normandeu Associates, Inc., Westmoreland, NH
Community organizer at Sierra Club, Missouri
We just came back from a fabulous trip to the Ecuadorian Amazon where we saw a Harpy Eagle, one of the largest eagles on earth, with a Coati as a prey, and a Jaguar on the shores of the Tiputini River. Waking up at 5 a.m. every day was worth the effort.

Xavier Silva, academic director

You know life is good when your class assignment is to survey platypus along a newly re-vegetated, rural Australian creek... As there is little published research on platypus populations in northern Queensland, and none north of Townsville, our purpose for this project was to provide baseline information on the habitat quality and platypus density in Peterson Creek. To these ends, our group surveyed over 800 meters of the creek during the wet season for platypus activity.

Meg Anderson, Middlebury College

In the new macroinvertebrate module in Santa Fe National Park, students learned to identify river insect families and interpret their presence/absence in the context of water quality and ecosystem health. The first day of the mammal module, students captured on camera one ocelot, one margay, agoutis, and pacas. On the bird module in La Amistad UNESCO biosphere, students had the opportunity to see the highly endangered, regionally endemic quetzal as well as several endangered tanagers.

Aly Dagang, academic director
SIT has been providing immersive, field-based study abroad programs for more than 50 years. SIT programs incorporate hands-on learning with reflection through classes, homestays, field studies, and meetings with local stakeholders and experts.

The Independent Study Project

Students on semester-long programs prepare to complete an in-depth, field-based project known as the Independent Study Project (ISP). The ISP is designed to integrate the learning, knowledge, field experience, and contacts acquired from all other components of the program. These projects may address a formulated research question or be practicum-based. In each case, the students conduct original fieldwork, give a final presentation, and write a formal research paper. Students are required to examine the ethics of their research and consider its impact on local communities.

Support and Guidance from Start to Finish

SIT faculty, staff, and advisors provide students with relevant coursework instruction, field experience, and guidance from the initial proposal stage through project completion. The ISP is often the first opportunity for students to learn how to undertake a field-based research project. Many have said this is one of the most exciting and valuable aspects of studying abroad with SIT.
SIT Study Abroad Undergraduate Research Award

To recognize outstanding field-based research conducted on SIT programs, in 2014 SIT launched the SIT Study Abroad Undergraduate Research Award. Winners include:


**Scott Sugden of Washington and Lee University** for his ISP Plant Community Structure over an Elevation Gradient in Manongarivo Special Reserve (2014) on the program Madagascar: Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management.

In addition to a small monetary award, winners become SIT’s nominees for The Forum on Education Abroad’s Undergraduate Research Award. Five SIT students have won this prestigious honor.

IHP/Comparative Programs

The unique nature of the IHP/Comparative programs results in a different form of student research. The approach still emphasizes the multidisciplinary analysis of issues and integrates the experience-based learning of the semester, but it results in a comparative research project on a topic of the student’s own choosing. Typically, the cumulative project involves qualitative research undertaken in each of the countries visited.

SIT Study Abroad STEM programs:

**Climate & Environment**
- Australia: Rainforest, Reef, and Cultural Ecology
- Australia: Sustainability and Environmental Action
- Ecuador: Comparative Ecology and Conservation
- Iceland and Greenland: Climate Change and the Arctic
- Iceland: Renewable Energy, Technology, and Resource Economics (Summer)
- Indonesia: Community Nature Conservation in Bali (Summer)
- IHP: Climate Change: The Politics of Food, Water, and Energy
- Madagascar: Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management
- Mongolia: Nomadism, Geopolitics, and the Environment
- Nepal: Geoscience in the Himalaya (Summer)
- Panama: Marine Ecology & Blue Carbon Conservation in the Pacific & Caribbean (Summer)
- Panama: Tropical Ecology, Marine Ecosystems, and Biodiversity Conservation
- Tanzania: Wildlife Conservation and Political Ecology
- Tanzania: Zanzibar—Coastal Ecology and Natural Resource Management

**Technology**
- IHP: Social Entrepreneurship: Innovation, Technology, Design, and Social Change
- South Korea: Digital Futures (Summer)

Global Health & Medicine

- Argentina: Public Health in Urban Environments
- Brazil: Public Health, Race, and Human Rights
- Chile: Public Health, Traditional Medicine, and Community Empowerment
- China: Community Health and Traditional Chinese Medicine (Summer)
- IHP: Health and Community: Globalization, Culture, and Care
- India: Public Health, Policy Advocacy, and Community
- India: Traditional Medicine and Healthcare Practices (Summer)
- Jordan: Refugees, Health, and Humanitarian Action
- Kenya: Urbanization, Health, and Human Rights
- Madagascar: Traditional Medicine and Healthcare Systems (Summer)
- South Africa: Community Health and Social Policy
- Switzerland: Food Security and Nutrition (Summer)
- Switzerland: Global Health and Development Policy

Summer Innovation Labs

- India: Food Innovation Lab
- Jordan: Water Innovation Lab
- South Africa: Shelter Innovation Lab

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