

# GW Students Abroad



## GW Alumnus: Patrick Williams Major: International Affairs & Spanish, ESIA BA '15



During his time at GW, various opportunities through the Office for Study Abroad took Patrick Williams, class of 2015, to countries such as Costa Rica, Argentina, and Brazil. Therefore, with a passion for travel fully ignited, Patrick's mission upon graduating was finding a job that would take him abroad once again. Enter the American International School – Salzburg.

A small, international boarding high school nestled in Austria's Alpine countryside was a far cry from DC and the Latin American capitals he had previously called home. "A concentration in Latin America, second major in Spanish, and three times abroad throughout the Americas didn't exactly prepare me for Central European life," he recalled. Brought on as a Resident

Assistant, his duties included overseeing the well-being, safety, and academic and social development of the students. Additionally, he taught two sections of PE, coached the co-ed swim team, and even got to substitute teach Spanish classes.

Patrick said that most people he tells about the experience ask if they were mostly American students, but mentioned that most students came from Russia, Ukraine, and Bulgaria, with a few students from Austria, the US, and elsewhere. "A really interesting aspect about the job was trying to instill American values and education to students from Eastern Europe and beyond while living in Western Europe. It was surreal speaking English to my colleagues and German at the grocery store, yet hearing more Russian on a daily basis than the other two combined!"

In looking for opportunities abroad, he emphasized that the key was to not self-limit: "I think a critical aspect of success in my job search was keeping the original goal, going abroad, at the forefront and not getting too hung up on or picky about the destination itself. Every place presents distinct opportunities and challenges for growth."



Would you like to learn more about the American International School in Salzburg, Austria? To learn more about them, please visit their [website](#).