To live and work abroad is truly a life changing experience

Today’s young people are inheriting an increasingly global world — one where geographic, economic and cultural borders have become fluid, and people are working together in unprecedented ways.

Such a world needs leaders who are globally aware, skilled at working across many different environments and cultures. One of the best ways to develop these skills is through international study, work or volunteer opportunities.

Students who take part in such activities return with enhanced language, leadership and cross-cultural communication skills, as well as stronger career prospects. Perhaps most importantly, they return with maturity, confidence and a new sense of self-reliance.

Lack of funds keeps students from seeking international opportunities

University of Waterloo offers many opportunities to study, work and grow abroad, and generous donors have made several funds available to support these activities.

But travel and living costs continue to rise, with expenses averaging about 30 per cent more for a term abroad. This is the main barrier for many qualified students to have this life changing experience.

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES YOU CAN SUPPORT

Academic Exchange
Students study abroad for a semester or full year at one of 90 partner institutions worldwide.

Co-op Work Experience
Co-op students work abroad for one or more work terms, gaining international business experience.

Not-for-Profit and NGO Work
Students undertake unpaid or minimally-paid volunteer positions, internships or co-op terms with charities, not-for-profits and NGOs around the world.

Field Courses
A group of students travels with a professor to do specific coursework overseas. Examples include Classics or Fine Arts students working and learning in Greece or Italy, or History students visiting European battlefields.

uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/international-exchange
All experiences at Waterloo — especially going on exchange — shape the graduate you become, and that’s something you take with you always and anywhere.

MELISSA BALUK,
BA ’12, Arts and Business Co-op;
now Communications Coordinator for TRUMF, Vancouver

PHOTO: While on exchange in Sweden,
Melissa visited Rome for a holiday break
before returning to classes
at Lund University.