

ENVIRONMENT INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES INFO SESSION

October 2024



UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO
FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT

University of Waterloo Acknowledgement

The University of Waterloo acknowledges that much of our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, and community building, and is centralized within the Office of Indigenous Relations.



ENVIRONMENT INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



International
Exchanges



International
Co-op



EDGE



Field Courses



UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO
FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT

Why Internationalize your degree?

- Step outside your comfort zone to become more independent and self-aware.
- Support the development of your intercultural competence and other transferable skills
- Build your network and make new friends from around the world.
- Set yourself apart in your job hunt by becoming more adaptable and developing the skills employers are looking for.
- Earn credit towards your degree at Waterloo while exploring another country/region



INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

Degrees that come with a view

Spend one or two academic terms abroad at one
of our partner schools



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Where can I go on exchange?

- Australia
- Austria
- Caribbean
- China
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Hong Kong
- Ireland
- Japan
- Malaysia
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Scotland
- Singapore
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- Vietnam



Summer Programs Abroad

- Australia
- Austria
- Caribbean
- China
- Finland
- **France**
- Germany
- **Hong Kong**
- Ireland
- **Japan**
- Malaysia
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Scotland
- **Singapore**
- **South Korea**
- Spain
- Sweden
- **Switzerland**
- Taiwan
- Turkey
- **United Kingdom**
- Vietnam



AM I ELIGIBLE FOR EXCHANGE?

- Cumulative overall average of 70% or higher
- Be in good standing for your program
- Demonstrate capability of maintaining a full course load as determined by your [academic plan](#) or [AccessAbility Services](#)
- Be proficient in the language of instruction at the host university
- Be in at least your 3A term at the time you go on exchange
Most students go on exchange during their 3A or 3B term, although 4A works best for students in Planning.



WHAT DOES IT COST?

Tuition

- For international exchanges, you pay your normal tuition fees (for 2.5 units) to Waterloo.
- There is no extra tuition charged to participate in an exchange program.
- Please note that your tuition for an exchange term does not change if you take a lighter course load at your host school.

Other costs

- You are responsible for any extra studying costs (student fees, books, lab fees, etc.), travel expenses, passport and visa arrangements, accommodations, food and all other living expenses, etc., including health care.
- Costs of living abroad vary but is often not significantly higher than living in Canada.

Making exchange more affordable

- Schools located in smaller cities or towns, where housing tends to be much lower than in larger cities.
- OSAP
- Host school scholarships
- Student Awards & Financial Aid: International Experience Awards and more



HOW DOES IT WORK?



1. Complete the Go Abroad info session
2. Contact your supports
3. Apply for exchange
4. Get endorsed and matched with a partner school
5. Apply to the host school
6. Go on exchange and receive UW transfer credits



GET STARTED: RESEARCH HOST SCHOOLS TODAY ON WATERLOO PASSPORT

Welcome **Search Programs** Help

Search Programs

Search Filters

Type Destination

Faculty Health Arts Engineering Environment Mathematics Science

Institution

Things to keep in mind:

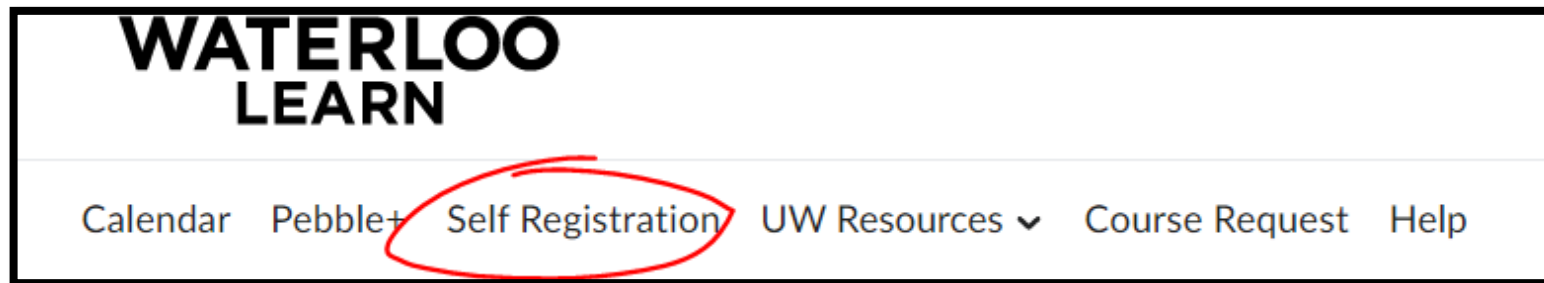
- Term dates
- Competitiveness
- Cost of living
- English courses

Waterloo Passport: <https://uwaterloo-horizons.symplicity.com/?s=StudentHome>



1. GO ABROAD INFO SESSION

- Every application cycle begins with an information session to guide you. To gain access to the application, you must complete the Go Abroad Info Session.
- Self-Register in the Go Abroad Info Session through LEARN



- You must complete the final quiz by **October 30 at 2:59pm**
- You will need to register in the info session for each cycle you apply in



2. CONTACT YOUR TEAM

Faculty Exchange Coordinator

- Questions about eligibility
- Questions about the exchange process
- Selecting your courses abroad
- Receiving transfer credits

Env.exchanges@uwaterloo.ca

Academic Advisor

- Fitting an exchange in your academic plan
- Degree requirements
- Change to work/study sequences

Global Learning Team

- Questions about your application
- Changes to your application
- Matching process
- Information about host school dates, application, etc.

studyabroad@uwaterloo.ca



3. APPLY FOR EXCHANGE

Exchange term	When to Apply
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Summer 2025•Fall 2025•Winter 2026•Spring 2026	October 1 - 31, 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Winter 2026•Spring 2026	February 1 - 28, 2025



4&5. ENDORSEMENT AND MATCHING PERIOD

- Endorsement: a check to ensure you qualify for exchange.
- Global Learning Team will attempt to match you with one of your selected host schools.
- If you are not matched, you can apply in the next application cycle for Winter or Spring 2026



6. START PLANNING YOUR ACADEMICS

- Find course offerings abroad and have them assessed for transfer credits prior to leaving for exchange
 - Plan to take electives during your exchange term
 - Do not plan to take core program requirements during your exchange term

7. APPLY TO HOST SCHOOL

- Your Global Learning Coordinator will contact you with instructions on how to apply to your host school
- Begin preparing for exchange (visa, housing, packing, etc.)



8. STUDY ABROAD AND EARN UW TRANSFER CREDITS



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My Experience Abroad

Exploring Taiwan

My experiences
in **Taiwan** and
attending
**National
Taiwan
University**
during my 3B
semester



Why I Chose Taiwan?

- Unique culture far away from Canada
- English was not commonly spoken (though they always had an english menu)
- Taiwan is one of the world's safest countries
- Very friendly to foreigners and love to share their culture
- Very CHEAP (12 cad per day)



Pre-Planning and Departure

Research Culture and history

-

It's important to understand the culture and history of your host country

Solidify Housing Plans

-

on campus housing is often rare, especially for European schools, private housing might be a better option

Prepare Sensitive Items

-

Items like medicine, razors, personal hygiene supplies and shoes are necessary and sometimes hard to find

Check the Weather

-

Research weather patterns from the past to know what to expect, I wish I did!



Get Your VISA!

-

Confirm if it needs to be a student or visitor visa

What I Learned

About other cultures (not just Taiwan!)

Not only will you learn about your host country, you'll learn a lot about the people you meet and where they're from



How to be spontaneous and live in the moment

Now is the perfect time to explore, you have opportunity, time and lots of friends!

How to be independent

You're your own boss while on exchange, no one is gonna do stuff for you, you need to stay ahead of due dates and other responsibilities

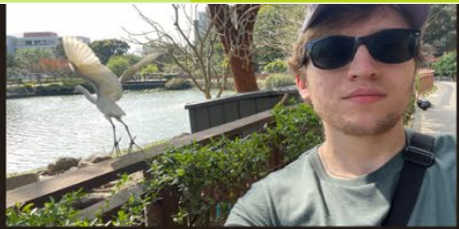


How to integrate into a new culture

Exchange forces you to leave your comfort zone and explore a new culture, it's perfect for teaching you how to adapt

Top Tips

- 1** Pre-download Chinese (or your host country's language) on Google translate
- 2** Other exchange students are easy to talk to and looking for friends
- 3** It's hot and rainy, REALLY HOT AND RAINY, especially in the south
- 4** Knowing Chinese isn't necessary to go, but I'd highly recommend taking Chinese language courses
- 5** Explore the rest of Asia, it's the perfect time



INTERNATIONAL CO-OP

INTERNATIONAL CO-OP WORK TERMS

Laura Anderton

Bettina Wahl

International Student Advisors

Co-operative & Experiential Education



How an International Co-op Student Advisor supports you



Before the work term, we

- answer questions related to potential international work terms (opportunities, concerns, logistics)
- offer tools and resources such as a Work Abroad Checklist to help you prepare for this experience

During the work term, we

- are available to answer questions or concerns about your job and experience living abroad
- check in occasionally to see how the term is going
- may schedule a consult meeting for a more in-depth conversation about your work term

After the work term, we

- are available for a debrief to help identify the unique skills you've acquired that would be of interest to future employers

The Where

Dubai, U.A.E.



Switzerland



Japan



Australia



and 50+ other countries ...

The Why

Skill development while working abroad



Cultural Awareness

When working in a new country, it's crucial to understand cultural norms in the workplace. For example, in some countries, bowing can be a form of greeting or show of respect, as opposed to a handshake.

In others, there can be a strong respect for authority, and so deference to superiors is essential in the workplace. As workplaces become increasingly diverse, the cultural awareness that students build on international work terms can help them be successful in a variety of workplaces.

Sample resume statement: Promoted inclusivity and effective communication to drive collaboration in diverse workplace environments as a culturally aware professional.

Building software skills in Britain

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2023

by Taito Wong | 14 min read



Hello! My name is Taito Wang, a fifth-year Computer Science and Business Administration student. I'll be sharing my story about my past internship in London, England as a Forward Deployed Software Engineer at Palantir Technologies!

MATHEMATICS, INTERNATIONAL

Ambition and action: a changemaker's vision for youth prosperity

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023

Contributing to Indigenous health internationally

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023

by Miya Morison (she/her) | 5 min read

Valuable insights from your peers can be found on CEE's International Co-op Blogs

47.9328° N,
8.0317° E

Hell's Valley, Germany





The How

Resources on
the CEE Work Abroad website

How to Arrange your own Job

Travel essentials

Co-op requirements

Funding options

Work Abroad Checklist

QUESTIONS?

Bettina Wahl – bwahl@uwaterloo.ca

Laura Anderton – lbland@uwaterloo.ca

Or reach out to your current Co-op
Student Advisor



EDGE

FIND YOUR INTERNATIONAL EDGE

10/28/2024

Josée-Claire Malenfant (she/her)

EDGE Instructional Support Coordinator

Environment EDGE Advisor



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WHAT IS EDGE?

Waterloo's experiential education certificate program

Regular-stream undergraduate degree students

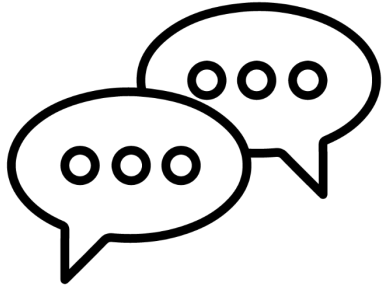
6 free and flexible milestones

Opt-in during any term

Our philosophy



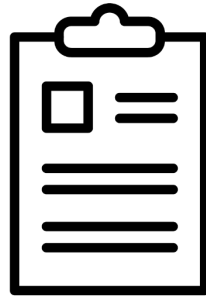
WHAT ARE THE MILESTONES?



Skills Identification & Articulation Workshop

Online or synchronous workshop

Identify skills developed inside and outside the classroom and **articulate** skills to potential employers



Career Development Course

Complete and pass PD1 EDGE

Develop core career seeking skills and align career goals with values, skills and interests



Work or Community Experiences

3 paid or volunteer work experiences

Explore career options through an **experiential learning courses** or their own **paid or volunteer experiences** paired with an elective PD course



Capstone Workshop

Synchronous online workshop

Create **action plan for post-graduation success** and develop strategies for next steps after undergraduate degree

HOW CAN I GO INTERNATIONAL WITH EDGE?

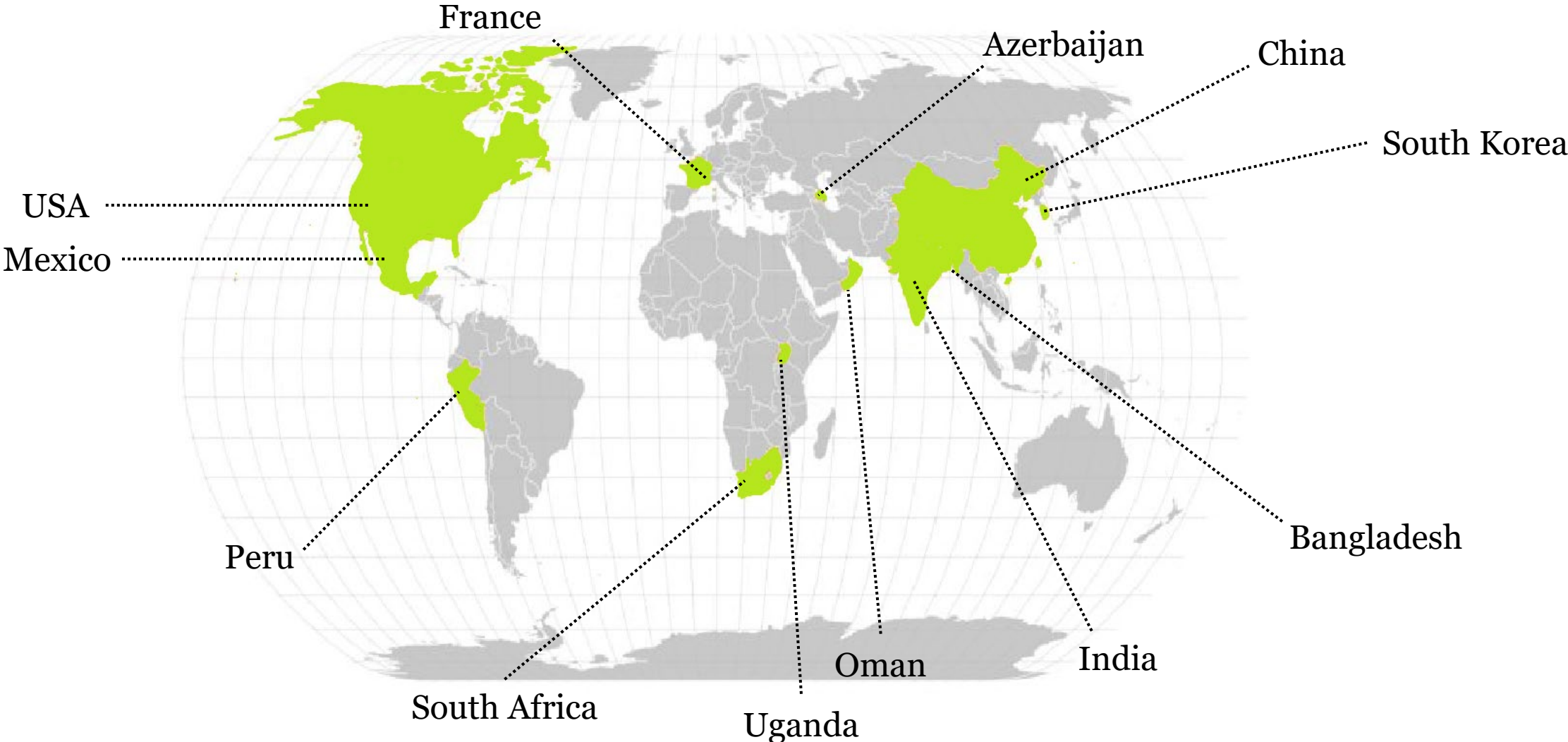
Part of a course

- Complete our independent studies and special topics enrolment form ASAP
- Approval process for milestone
- At least 18 hours of work
- Third party
- Pass course
- Performance evaluation
- Reflection for EDGE

Extracurricular experience

- Complete our international experience information form ASAP before departing
- Approval process, pre-departure training
- Your physical body is outside of Canada
- At least 36 hours of work
- Paired with PD elective course
- Performance evaluation

WHERE HAVE EDGE STUDENTS BEEN?



THANK YOU!

Register for EDGE



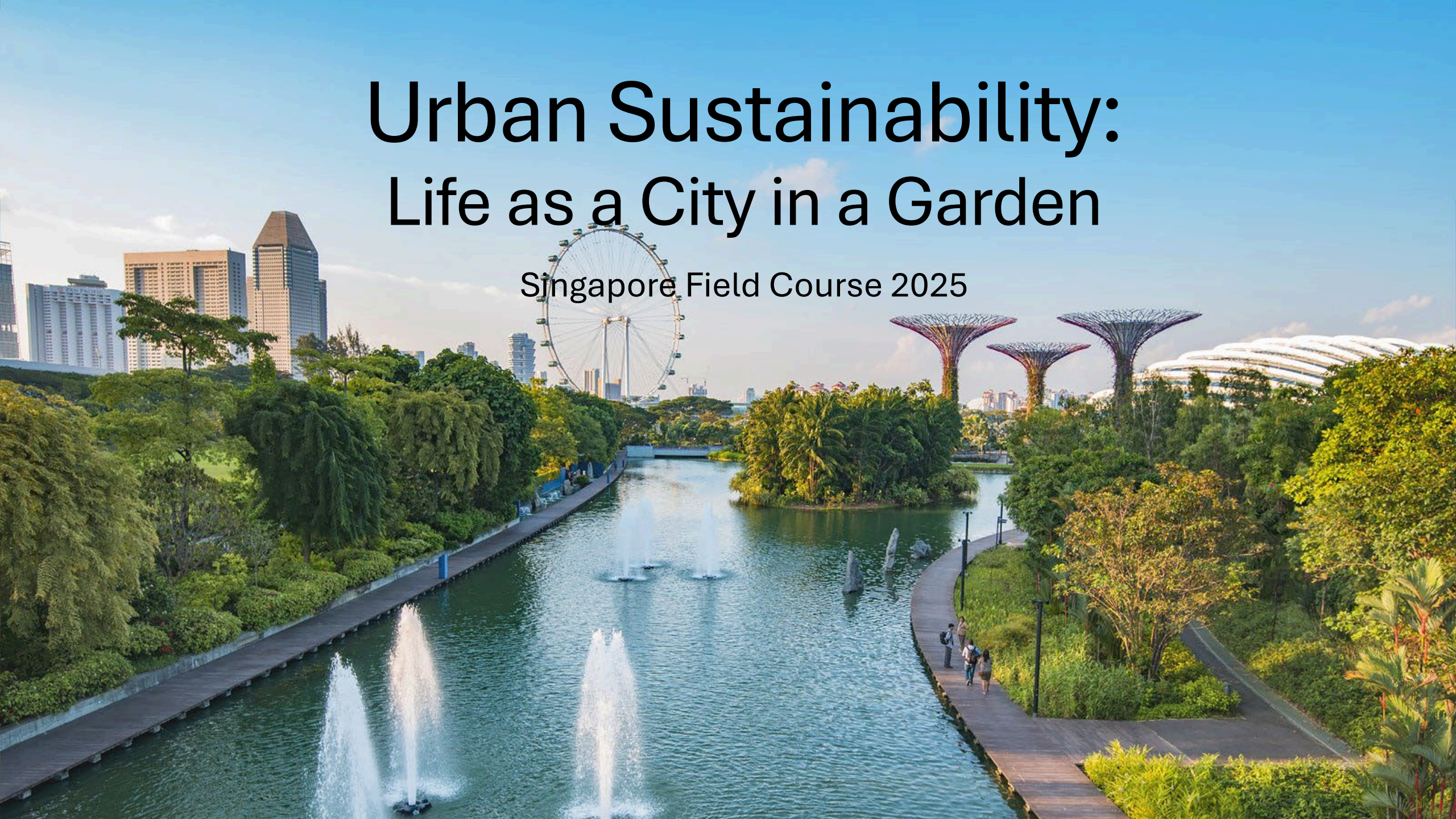
Book an appointment



FIELD COURSES

Urban Sustainability: Life as a City in a Garden

Singapore Field Course 2025



Course Overview

In this course, we will explore the multi-dimensional complexity of Singapore as a future city through exploration of the infrastructure, resources, social fabric, and constraints of a tropical island state under a changing climate that has transformed itself into an international hub of sustainability, finance, tourism, and technology.

You will have the opportunity to explore multiple urban sustainability themes, including:

- Food sustainability
- Water systems
- Climate change
- Extreme heat
- Biodiversity and conservation
- Green urbanism



Why Singapore?

- Singapore is often touted as one of the most sustainable cities in the world and is nicknamed a “City in a Garden”
- Faces unique challenges with innovative solutions to social constraints, equity, climate change, sustainability, and economic growth.
- It has flourished from rapid development since independence in 1965 through their future-thinking mindset in economic advancement, technological innovation, and social change.

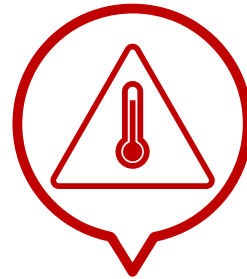




Learning Outcomes

- Understand nuance in urban sustainability concepts and practices
- Identify mechanisms to support sustainable solutions to water, food, and climate concerns
- Define the impacts of the urban heat island and what thermal comfort is
- Explore urban sustainability themes through hands-on engagement

Example Field Course Activities



Conservation

- Singapore Botanic Garden
- Night Safari
- Gardens by the Bay

Food Sustainability

- Vertical Farm Tour
- Urban Farm Tour
- Hawker Centres

Urban Heat

- Thermal Walks
- SULTREE Lab (SMU)
- Heat Resilience & Performance Centre (NUS)

Water

- Singapore River Cruise
- Sustainable Singapore Gallery
- Institute for Environmental Sustainability (NUS)

Urban Planning

- Singapore City Gallery
- Cultural Neighbourhood Tour
- Urban Park Tour



Details

- Dates: 9 days (4/26/25 – 5/4/25)
- Location: Singapore!
- Costs: ~\$1,800-\$2,000 (all expenses except airfare and some food)
- Instructors: Dr. Leah Jones-Crank & Dr. Peter Crank

Why should you go?

- Unique systems-thinking and urban sustainability experiences
- Deeper understanding of the challenges around sustainability and climate change practice
- Multi-cultural perspectives and delicious food



ENVS 474
Cape Town, South Africa Field Course

Connecting Biodiversity, Climate Change and Social Justice

26 April- 5 May 2025 (tentative)

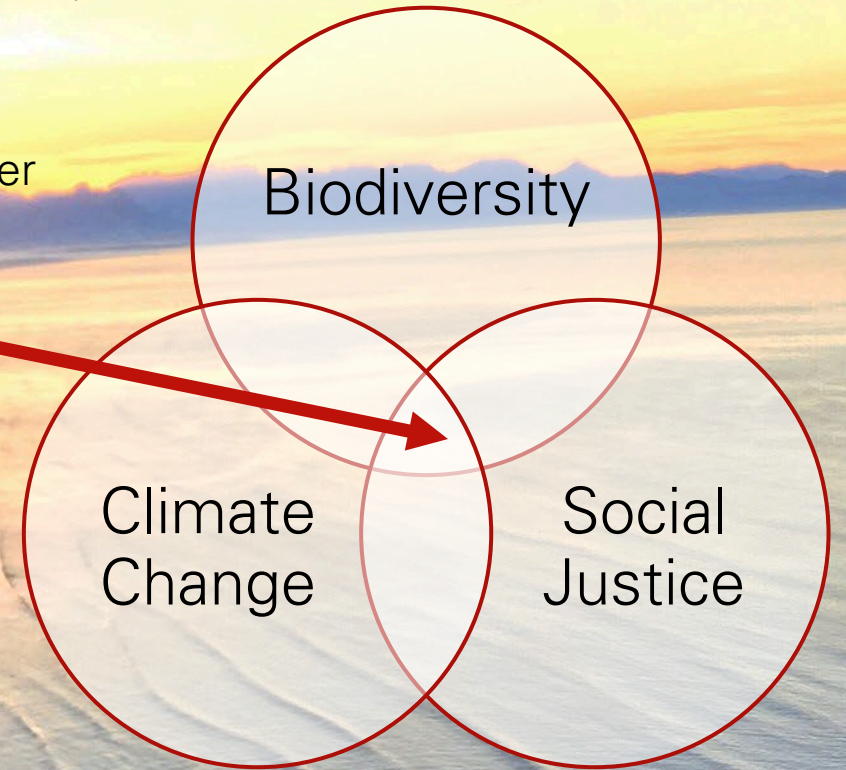
Instructors:

**Dr. Ella-Kari Muhl (University of
Cape Town & UW) & Prof. Derek
Armitage (UW)**



Course themes and activities:

- Understanding the spatial geographies of Apartheid and post-Apartheid planning and its implications for people and nature
- Exploring and understanding the unique terrestrial (i.e., Fynbos systems) and coastal-marine biodiversity of the Cape region
- Engaging with ongoing experiences around climate change and the human-wildlife interface with reference to Cape Town's historic water crisis & vulnerability to fire



Overview

Spring term 2025 (April 26th – May 5th tentative)

Busy days in the field (with some down-time to explore this fascinating part of the world)

Several pre- & post-field virtual meetings to set context and engage with course themes

Activities centered in Cape Town, South Africa, with exposure to a wide range of cross-cutting terrestrial/urban and coastal/marine issues

Locations

- Cape Malay Quarter, Kalk Bay, Masipumele, Simons Town (spatial histories and social justice)
- Kirstenbosch, Cape Point and Boulders Beach (terrestrial and marine biodiversity)
- City Bowl, Table Mountain and University of Cape Town (water, fire and the effects of climate change)



Why take this course?

- 0.5 fourth year course credit (UG)
- 'Co-op friendly' & 'UG thesis research friendly'
- Applied/practical/experiential learning - develop research skills
- Position yourself for graduate studies
- Unique access to people and places with numerous local experts and guides
- Cost effective: ~\$1,600-1,800 for in-field component in Cape Town

Questions??

Ella-Kari Muhl emuhl@uwaterloo.ca or
Derek Armitage derek.armitage@uwaterloo.ca



ENVS 474: THROUGH THE EYES OF TWO STUDENTS

10/25/2024

Tara Ryan and Sophia Armstrong,
School of Environment, Resources, and Sustainability



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HOW DID WE PREPARE FOR THE TRIP?

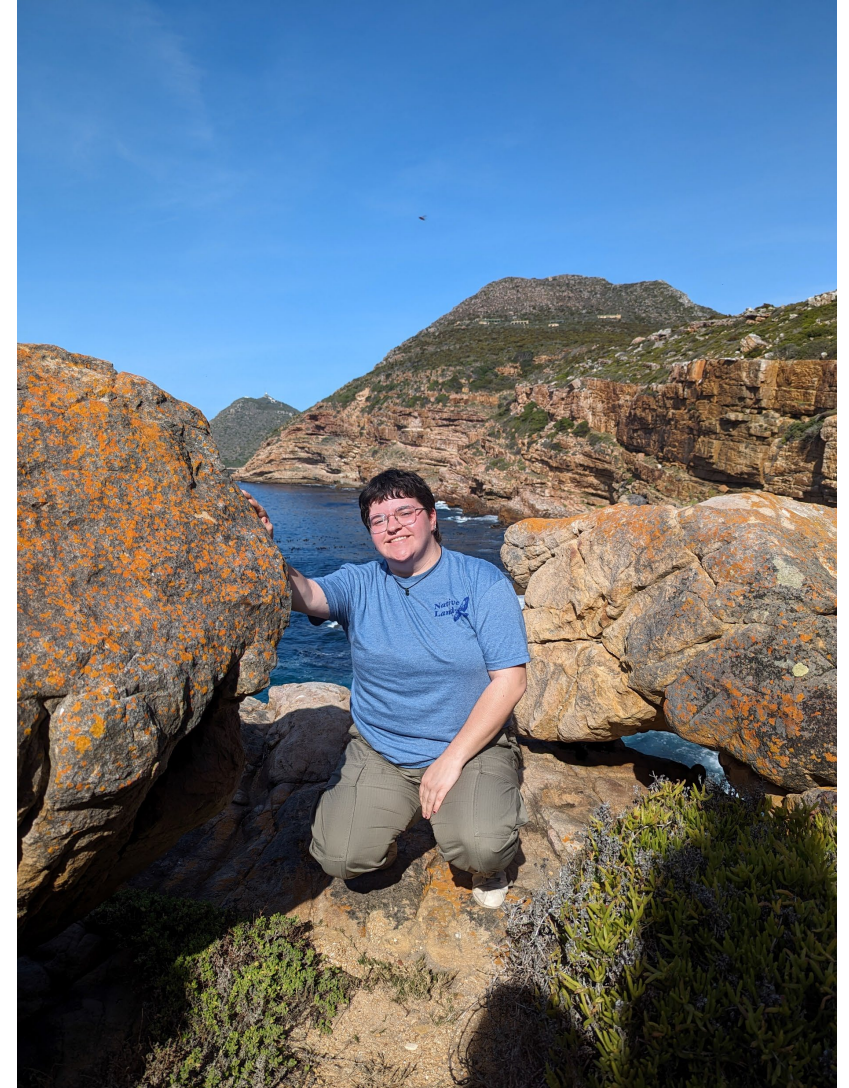
- Suggested readings
 - Spent time learning about Apartheid and the impacts of climate change on Cape Town
 - Read *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah
- University training (safety abroad)
- Packing

WHAT I LEARNED: TARA

In SERS, it can often be difficult to strike a balance between social science and ecological science (if that's the kind of avenue you want to pursue). I've been trying to find that balance all throughout my undergrad degree, and this course was a perfect mesh, for example, highlighting the stunning biodiversity of ecosystems in South Africa while also highlighting the social issues that are immensely tangled up within the science side of things.

As an Indigenous person, I also wanted to pay close attention to Apartheid in South Africa and its' legacies during this trip. It made me think about how there are still undertones of colonialism and divide in countries that have this sort of history – Canada included.

That being said, it was easy to appreciate the mesh of cultures that South Africa has, while being able to think critically about this country and the small glimpse that we were given.



WHAT I LEARNED: SOPHIA

This trip taught me so much about both myself and the world!





Having never lived near an ocean, I was able to learn about a whole new ecosystem, which ignited a newfound passion. While rock pooling, I gained firsthand experience engaging with marine organisms like sea stars, urchins, and anemones, and learned about the dynamic nature of kelp forests.

This experience also gave me a new appreciation for sharks. Going into it, I was afraid, like many. But after swimming with them and visiting Shark Spotters, I learned that my lack of exposure to them had harboured a fear that wasn't necessarily warranted.




More from a social justice lens, it was incredible to learn about the multi-culturalism of Cape Town and see how peacefully all the different cultures interact. It truly is a city of many, making for a ripe cultural landscape!





HIGHLIGHTS OF TRIP: Tara

- **Mini road trip** 
 - We drove around the entirety of the Cape Town region, setting the geographical scene for our week and chatting with our heritage guide
- **Anti-tour with Traci Kwaai** 
 - Walk and talk in Kalk Bay harbour with a 6th generation fisher child and activist, listening to her family history and traditions
- **Visit at the University of Cape Town** 
 - We got to explore campus a little, talk and do an activity with current students, talk about small-scale fisheries, and experience a glimpse of life at a university other than UW :o
- **Simonstown Museum** 
 - Learned about the history of Africa, its people, spatial geographies, and the preservation of culture

HIGHLIGHTS OF TRIP: SOPHIA

- **Rock pooling** 
 - We went out onto the shore of the Indian Ocean with trained marine biologists to look at the aquatic life living in this transition zone
- **Swimming with sharks** 
 - While snorkeling in the kelp forests of the Indian Ocean (which was pretty chilly!) we came across some friendly gully sharks
- **Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden** 
 - During this visit, we learned about the Fynbos biome, unique to South Africa, and explored an array of new plant life

- **Seaweed foraging and lunch** 
 - On our last day, we went to Reserve Edge Wild Food where we predominantly out of seaweed
- **Faeenza's Home Kitchen cooking class** 
 - On our first day we visited this space in the heart of Cape Town where we participated in a cooking class and learned about the different cultural influences in the city

Most of all, I loved getting closer to my peers and professors, learning about the rich culture of Cape Town, and exploring a different part of the world!

PHOTO DUMP!



Murals in Bokaap

We walked through a district of Cape Town called Bokaap and did a heritage tour, establishing the cultural context for much of our trip



Culture through food

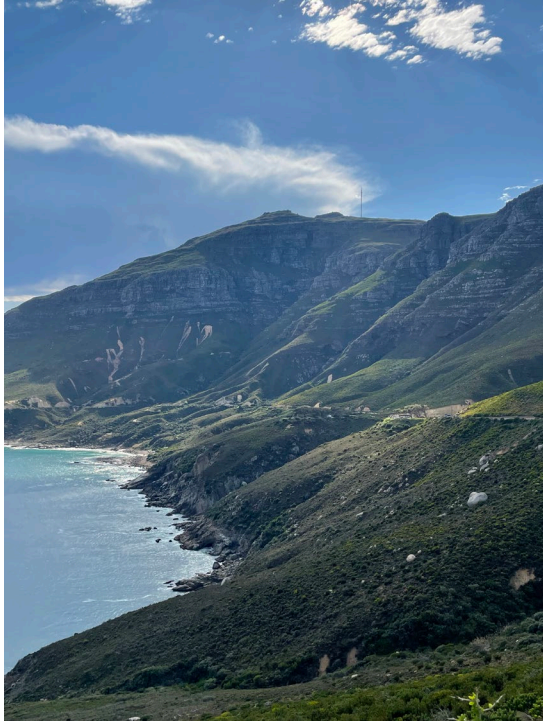
I love fish, so I had lots of fun eating in Cape Town. There's so many stories, history, and culture in the food that we eat!



Post-snorkeling views

After snorkeling in the Indian Ocean, we sat wrapped in towels with some hot chocolate and did a quick debriefing

PHOTO DUMP!



Chapman's Peak

At the beginning of the trip we went on a beautiful drive of Chapman's Peak, a road that snakes along a section of the coast.



Cooking Class

Here is Dr. Derek Armitage and the instructor of our cooking class making delicious cheese and vegetable-filled pastries.



Sea Star

This is one of the sea stars we found during rock pooling. We also found smaller ones called 'cushion stars'.

PHOTO DUMP!



Kirstenbosch

At Kirstenbosch we had a beautiful view of Table Mountain. Also, here is Hanna, one of our classmates!



Seaweed Lasagna

After learning how to forage for seaweed, we ate a home-cooked lasagna made from seaweed and vegetables grown in our host's garden.



Lunch by the Coast

After walking along the coast, we stopped at this stunning cove to eat our lunch and watch the waves crash against the rocky shoreline.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING :D



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YOU+WATERLOO

Our greatest impact happens together.