



## **PSU students journey to Europe in first faculty-led study abroad trip in two years**



Studying abroad provides students with the opportunity to immerse themselves in a different country and experience other cultures while learning.

Faculty-led study abroad trips are a popular option for Pittsburg State University students to take advantage of study abroad opportunities at PSU, and travel for a few weeks with a group of students led by a faculty member.

Over PSU's Spring Break in March, group of 37 Pitt State students, six

community members, and three faculty journeyed to Europe in the first faculty-led study abroad trip in two years, since the start of the pandemic.

"It was so great to be able to travel again," said Craig Fuchs, Honors College Director, who led the trip. "We have been trying to do this trip for years, so I was so excited for the students to finally be able to realize their dream of going abroad."

During the trip, the group visited Rome, Florence, and Paris; spending time at major landmarks and historical sites. Fuchs said one of his favorite parts of the trip was seeing student's reactions to seeing historic structures, such as the Eiffel Tower, and realizing they were somewhere far from home.

"I would have loved to have been inside their minds," he said. "It is these 'aha' moments that we as faculty leaders invest our energy for. I truly wish that people back at PSU could witness these life-changing moments in the student's lives."

Faculty-led study abroad trips are beneficial for students who may be traveling abroad for the first time, as they have the support of faculty and other students.

"I was able to go with some of my best friends so that was a plus," said Isabella Friemel, a PSU student who went on the trip. "I have plans to travel the world more, so having such a strong support system for my first time abroad was very important to me."

Paul Worsley, another PSU student who went on the trip, was attracted to the opportunity to see places from his interests in Roman history and the Italian Renaissance, in-person. Reflecting on the experience, he recommends other students take advantage of study abroad opportunities as well.



# Pittsburg State University

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"I definitely recommend studying abroad to other students," Worsley said. "The experience was life changing for me. I feel like I have a greater appreciation for my own community after seeing such amazing places in Europe. I feel strengthened in my faith and my bonds with my friends."

According to Fuchs, faculty-led study abroad trips are just as impactful to the faculty and staff who go on them as they are for the students.

"I am so very blessed to be able to travel the world with my students, their friends, and their families," Fuchs said. "These trips have without question been the highlight of my tenure at PSU. The globalization of one's education is so very important and the impact on the students is immeasurable and long-lasting."