Fall 2019 brought the very first of hopefully many more study abroad trips for the School of Social Work. Professors Tracy Orwig and Dr. Eusebius Small took 16 Social work students, both BSW and MSW, and embarked on a 2 week, once in a lifetime journey. While in Belize, not only did they learn about health conditions, but they also embraced the culture that surrounded them. For some it was their very first time out of the country and for others it was their first study abroad trip.

"In Belize, as a part of the first UTA Social Work Study Abroad, we grew stronger as individuals, as a group, as social workers, and as global citizens."

"The trip was outstanding. Challenging. Truly the most rewarding experience I've ever encountered. Being able to compare true life in Belize to the tourism life was something I will forever treasure. From our outstanding local Mayan guides who encouraged us to jungle through like jaguars and hang from vines like holler monkeys to the empowering rush of adrenaline from the jump of a waterfall. Truly an out of body experience I'll genuinely cherish for the rest of my life. And lastly, I'm an a strictly online master's study who knew absolutely no one. I met my colleagues on this trip and I can honestly say this trip was so heart wrenching and soul touching by also dancing alongside one another in a local Indian Mayan Women Village was just another mind wakening experiences we participated in together."

"It was such a blessing to go on a social work study abroad. To be with social workers while experiencing a new culture brings well-rounded observations to the new things that we saw and experienced. I'm confident in knowing that after having that experience, it will help me bring more effective approaches to the way I view and support clients in their cultures. It has helped me become more culturally competent and a more understanding individual. I've come to realize that no matter how badly you may want to help a client, that they are a person-in-environment with their own culture, experience, and understandings. We cannot expect them to change who they are, even if it may be a better way of doing things. As social workers, it is our responsibility to be competent enough to come up with creative solutions that coincide with other cultures. I will be forever grateful for this experience."

"Cross-cultural study opened my eyes to my own beliefs and values, challenged them, changed some, and made others stronger. I saw, heard, and discussed things that truly matter to me. I learned more about who I am while remaining open to others at the same time. I look forward to continuing to build relationships with those I traveled with as well as those I met in Belize. I'm extremely grateful for the experience."

"Studying abroad has helped me realize my gifts and encouraged me to use them to the best of my ability. It rekindled a fire in me to chase my dreams. I feel even more certain that I've chosen the right educational/career path for me."

"Studying abroad in Belize has taught me to appreciate things that I have taken for granted, luxuries I didn't even know were luxuries. I am blessed to have the opportunity for this experience. I've seen humanity and I've seen the wonders that God created. I will be going home changed."

Follow us on social media

Important Reminders

1. Don’t forget to register for Spring Semester! Registration is open until January 26. Late registration is January 27 to January 30. (If you have issues, please email your advisor or Dr. Praetorius).
2. There will be no Director Hours during Finals Week. Director Hours will resume in the Spring Semester.
3. There will be no Newsletter during Finals Week. The Newsletter will resume in the Spring Semester.

School of Social Work

Studies abroad in Belize

"Belize, as part of the first U.S. Social Work Study Abroad, is an experience like no other. As a group, as social workers, and as global citizens."

"Studying abroad in Belize helped me realize my gifts and encouraged me to use them to the best of my ability. It rekindled a fire in me to chase my dreams. I feel even more certain that I've chosen the right educational/career path for me."