

Why You Should Let Your Child Study Abroad.

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Parents want what's best for their child, but nowadays it's unclear as to what is best. However, one of the best things' parents can do for their children is to teach them to make wise decisions and give them a worldly mindset that will prepare them for a competitive dog-eats-dog world. Throwing them out of their comfort zone and into a foreign country is a good start of doing that.

There are multiple opportunities when it comes to sending your child to study abroad. Whether it be with the State Department, Rotary, Universities or simply sending them to go live with a friend of a friend in a foreign country. Don't let it be a thing that's unreachable. It's a lot more accessible than most people think.

But it's a terrifying thing to do. Sending your child to an unknown place surrounded by strangers speaking an unknown language and a scary culture. How would you ever be able to accomplish that. A year without them in the same country as you, on the same land. Not being able to be a part of her life and experience things she was.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we're in the Technology Era, calling someone on the other side of the world isn't even a second thought if it's possible or not. Social media has made it very easy to stay connected. Blogging is another great way for everyone back home to live vicariously through that exchange student. And after they've return, the student can look back and relive all those vivid memories through those posts.

After a while, it just becomes the norm of not seeing your child daily or even on a monthly basis. It's such a fantastic opportunity, it's worth the risk. They would have grown up a lot and would become an international citizen. The year does go by quickly, but it will change their life forever. *It's a life in a year.*

Living in a foreign country builds countless traits and skills in people at an alarmingly rate, sometimes those skills are never learned throughout life because people never take that step out of their comfort zone. There's been countless studies on exchange students proving positive growth.

Ajou University, in South Korea, surveyed exchange students before they left, midway, and when they've returned to their home country. In those surveys, it was clear that most students showed a significant increase in extraversion, openness and agreeableness, and an understanding of the world around them. Exchange students are

known to come back and be ready to take on the world and welcome challenges and differences that may stand in their way.

We've all heard that saying, "You don't know what you have until it's gone". It's rings true with exchange students. Their view of their home country and other cultures in the world is broadened. You get to see how the world does things differently and realize that your home country may not do it better. There may be some things they become ashamed of that their home culture does, but they will also learn to appreciate other things that their culture has.

They'll come back with a lot of empathy for everyone and everything in the world. Having multiple connections from different cultures allows them to look at things in a more objective view with less bias to what they've always known.

They'll learn appreciate their home culture and little things back home, but also learn to appreciate everything you guys, as parents, do for them. Some may be living in dorms with other university students, meanwhile some exchange students will be living with host families, people that won't necessarily be everything you guys have been.

Not only will they form new familial relationships, they'll also form friendships that will last longer than lifetime. The exchange student bond is one of the strongest bonds out there. No one will understand your child as well as another exchange student. Their life in that short year is like starting over from ground zero and those other students are going through the same thing.

The big unknown world suddenly becomes a small place where nothing is untouchable. More doors open and they have the independence and confidence in their ability to take on everything that comes their way. They'll make international connections that can come back later in their career. Even learning another language can put them ahead of their peers when it comes to job prospects.

Besides all that navigating a foreign city's transportation by themselves will make scheduling doctor's appointments a breeze. The lessons they'll learn while abroad will help guide them to become the best person they can be and prepare them to "Carpe Diem".