



Education and Counseling in Slovenia

May 6 – 17, 2018

Faculty Leaders

Dr. Sonya Lorelle, Division of Psychology – slorelle@govst.edu

Dr. Katy E. Hisrich, Division of Education – khisrich@govst.edu

Course options

COUN 7620 or EDEC3380 or EDUC6501 Topics in Education (other elective courses may apply)

Synopsis of Program

The Division of Psychology and the Division of Education have teamed up to offer a study abroad program in Slovenia. Graduate students in the Counselor Education and Supervision programs are required to take a Lifespan Development Course. Undergraduate and graduate students in the Early Childhood Program are required to take a Language Development course. This will also be offered as an elective for all students in programs in the Division of Education. The counseling program and education programs are collaborating to offer students the option of substituting this class for a study abroad experience in Slovenia (led by Dr. Sonya Lorelle and Dr. Katy Hisrich) and the corresponding assignments. There will be approximately twelve students eligible for the program. GSU will be collaborating with Ljubljana University in the capital city of Slovenia. Students will attend workshops at the university and will do site visits.

For the counseling course, understanding development across the lifespan is crucial to conceptualizing client concerns. Through the workshops and site visits we will explore childhood issues, gender, sexuality, family life, LGBT issues, alcohol use, domestic violence and issues in older adulthood in Slovenia. We will also look at Slovenia Culture and history, mental health services in the country and how it impacts development.

For education, early childhood education undergraduate and graduate students are required to take a course in language development. Courses in other programs in the Division of Education also focus on language development and literacy. Part of this course focuses on how language develops across all cultures. Students will be able to gain an understanding of language development and the impact of culture on development in Slovenia while interacting with students and faculty at the university, as well as by visiting local schools of various grades and examining teachers and instruction in another country. The site visits at the schools and health services will provide opportunities for students to observe typical/atypical language development and various ways to support development. This experience will better prepare preservice teachers to instruct and differentiate lessons for English Language Learners.

Students will also be expected to complete the following course activities/assignments: 1) Attending and reflection on the workshops and assigned readings; 2) online discussion boards before and after the program 3) And a paper on a specific aspect of development and how culture impacts development.

Agenda

Date	Agenda
May 6 Su	Fly from Chicago to Ljubljana
May 7 M	Arrive Ljubljana
May 8 T	Workshop and/or site visit Ljubljana
May 9 W	Workshop and/or site visit Ljubljana
May 10 R	Workshop and/or site visit Ljubljana
May 11 F	Postojna Caves and Piran Day Trip (stay in Piran)
May 12 Sa	Pula Croatia (and return to Ljubljana)
May 13 Su	Ljubljana & Lake Bled (day trip)
May 14 M	Workshop and/or site visit Ljubljana
May 15 T	Workshop and/or site visit Ljubljana
May 16 W	Venice Day Trip
May 17 R	Fly from Ljubljana to Chicago

Working Days

1. visit Pedagogical/Education faculty (school) at University of Ljubljana
 - a. Attend class
 - b. Discussion, roundtable, project with faculty and students
2. visit Psychology faculty (school) at University of Ljubljana
 - a. Attend class
 - b. Discussion, roundtable, project with faculty and students
3. site visits: 3-4 schools
 - a. preschool, elementary, middle/high school
4. site visits: 3-4 counseling centers
 - a. OT, rehab, counseling, psych hospital, support groups, LBGT center, Domestic violence center,
5. service learning project or conference/prof dev
 - a. with faculty and students

Associated course description

Counseling students will receive course credit for COUN 7620. Counselors are required by accreditation and professional standards to have an understanding of systemic and environmental factors that affect human development, functioning, and behavior. In addition, they should know theories of learning, individual and family development across the lifespan, effects of crisis and trauma on diverse individuals, and cultural relevant strategies for promoting resilience and wellness across the. By experiencing these lifespan issues in a new culture and setting, students will understand how the context of the intricate factors of nature and nurture that impact development. Students will be required to keep daily reflections of their experiences, read theories of development and write a paper addressing a specific topic of development they gained awareness about in Slovenia and how they will apply this knowledge with future clients in the US.

Early Childhood Education Students will receive course credit for EDEC3380. This course focuses on the typical and atypical communication and language development of young children, developmentally appropriate practices for facilitating young children's construction of language, exploring alternative communication systems for young children with disabilities, creating quality language-learning environments, and the relationship between language and literacy. This knowledge is required for teachers by accreditation and professional standards. Examining typical and atypical language development in another culture will offer new perspectives and ideas that will assist students' conceptualization and interventions in the US.

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Cost & Deadlines

Program Fee: \$2,525

Included: Accommodations for 10 nights, breakfast, one group meal, cultural tours, university visits, international travel insurance, on-site transportation

Not included:

- In addition to the costs above, expect to pay approximately \$1000-1,400 for international roundtrip flight to Ljubljana
- Most meals outside of Breakfast
- Transportation outside of group activities
- Tuition and fees for COUN 7620 or EDEC3380 (elective courses may apply)

Deadlines:

- December 1 – Application and \$500 deposit due
- January 15 - \$675
- February 15 - \$675
- March 1 - \$675

Application Process:

1. Fill out the Study Abroad Application packet (pages 2-6) located on the GSU Website under Study Abroad and the Slovenia Deposit Form.
2. Meet with Study Abroad Coordinator, Amy Schoenberg, by setting up an appointment via email at aschoenberg@govst.edu. The office number is 708-235-7157 and the location is GMT 151.
3. Once you meet the study abroad requirements, your name will be passed to the faculty leaders for final approval.
4. Upon notification of acceptance, a deposit due charge will be set up on your student account and your deposit will be applied to the total program fee. All other payments must be made by the due dates.

Note: All money paid to GSU is non-refundable. Once you commit to the program, you are expected to cover the program cost.

Study Abroad Scholarship:

Students may apply for the GSU Study Abroad Scholarship. Instructions are found at the second half of the Study Abroad Application packet located on the website. Awards are typically between \$500-750.

The deadline to apply for the scholarship is November 15, 2017 and February 1, 2018.