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Principia Study Abroad
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“Stories from a Homeland of Shifting Borders” Slovenia, Croatia & Bosnia Study Abroad

Program Focus

This study abroad focuses on the written stories and reflections of a people who have spent all but their last 29 years under the rule of the Roman Empire, Napoleon, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the short-lived communist country of Yugoslavia. Slovenia and Croatia each seceded from Yugoslavia and declared independence in 1991. Bosnia & Herzegovina’s separation from Yugoslavia was much more complicated.

Through short stories, essays, and novels—as well as conversations and visits to sites significant to Slovene, Croatian, and Bosnian literature—students will explore the literary, linguistic, and cultural path of these peoples from the time of their arrival as southern Slavs in the Balkans to present day. We’ll start by studying Slovenia, then explore Croatia’s completely different path to present day as a comparison study. A brief trip into Bosnia will reveal yet another, more dramatic, comparison.

Located on the boundary between Western and Eastern Europe, Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia & Herzegovina and their neighbors seem always to be at the crossroads of significant historical events—from world wars and the Cold War to the more recent immigration from the Middle East. Slovenia was the first former communist country to hold the presidency of the European Union. Yet while history is important, it is the literature and language that unify the two million Slovenes who live there. Boulevards and statues in the capital, Ljubljana, are named for writers, not generals or presidents. Croatia boasts similar monuments, joined the EU in 2014, and is following its own path to full integration into Europe. Bosnia, the most Eastern of the countries in geography, economy, and customs, trying hard to find its way.

This program is open to all students and all majors.

Applications

(see Application Instructions on page 4 for more information)

Applications are online as a google form at: <http://bit.ly/study-abroad-app-F21>

Applications must be completed and submitted no later than 5:00pm on **Wednesday, September 22, 2021**. *Late applications not accepted.*



Program Staff

This program will be directed by faculty, Ellen Sprague, MFA, MA, and accompanied by a resident counselor.

Ellen is an associate professor of writing in the Center for Teaching and Learning. She has a master of fine arts in writing (creative nonfiction and translation) and a master's degree in French. It was during her MFA program that she first went to Slovenia and was smitten by the landscape and story of the people. She traveled to Croatia on the same trip and to Bosnia a few years later. She led Principia's summer 2017 and 2019 study abroads to Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia & Herzegovina. As a Principia student she traveled on two abroads: one to France and another, focusing on music and art history, to Paris, Munich, and Vienna. She teaches academic writing courses each semester as well as Intro to Creative Nonfiction and has taught in multiple FYE programs. Prior to teaching, she was a writer and photographer for Principia.

A program resident counselor will be named at a later date.



Program Preliminary Itinerary

There will not be a typical day, but here is a sense of what to expect. After morning individual and/or group metaphysical time, we will have classroom or excursion time. Coursework will involve reading and writing, experimenting with translation, and, most importantly, visits/interviews with writers and translators whose works we will be reading both on campus and while in Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia.

In approximately 2.5 weeks spent in Slovenia, students will learn the basics of the Slovene language through a brief course at the Center for Slovene Studies in Ljubljana, Slovenia's capital. Day and afternoon trips to literary and culturally significant sites are likely to include Kobarid, known for World War I and Ernest Hemingway; the Predjama castle in a cave; Lake Bled, a picturesque mountain lake with nearby waterfalls that have inspired poets and writers over the centuries; Celje and its castle; the Škocjan caves, a UNESCO World Heritage site that looks straight out of *Lord of the Rings*; not to mention modern literary sites such as the Celica Hostel in the classic European capital city Ljubljana.

Our week-plus trip to Croatia will feature visits with writers, students, and translators in both the capital city, Zagreb, and the university and coastal tourist town of Zadar; a side trip to the Adriatic island of Rab; and exploration of a national park. We will also spend three-to-four days in Bosnia, touring both Mostar, famous for its rebuilt Ottoman bridge, and touring Sarajevo, where the first shot of WWI rang out and in the 1990s citizens struggled for almost four year years under a siege that was only ended after international intervention.

Each day will require a sense of adventure and flexibility as we embark on our scheduled activities.

*Note: At this time, this program is scheduled for 4 weeks, in May/June of 2022.

Academics

SPRING SEMESTER 2022

WLIT 131A: Stories Around the Globe

SH: 2 Attribute: None

Students gain insight into different cultures as well as their own through careful reading and discussion of stories from different countries. Students explore the relationship between literature and culture in class discussions and writing. Literature studied will come from Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia.

SUMMER BREAK 2022

WLIT 131B: Stories Around the Globe

SH: 1 Attribute: GEH

Continuation of WLIT 131A, taken during spring semester. Must take both WLIT 131A & WLIT 131B to earn GEH attribution. This course is a continuation of WLIT 131A and includes both literature study and a culminating writing activity.

SPST 285: Country Studies: Slovenia, Croatia & Bosnia

SH: 3 Attribute: NONE

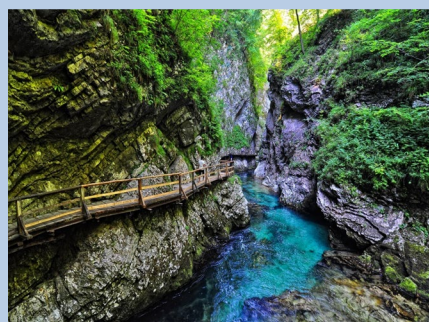
Cultural and historical sites studied and visited; formal language instruction. Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina will be explored as well.

FALL SEMESTER 2022

SPST 281: Reentry Seminar: Slovenia, Croatia & Bosnia

SH: 1 Attribute: none

Taught on campus fall semester 2022, this required reentry seminar is an opportunity for students to internalize, integrate, and formulate the personal and academic learning gained from their study in Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia.



Financial Aid & Responsibility

Students who will be eligible to receive financial aid for the 2021-2022 academic year may request Principia financial aid and/or scholarship.

Payments for past and current tuition, room, and board must be up-to-date, or a satisfactory payment schedule must be arranged with the Accounting Office in St. Louis, in order for a student to be allowed to participate in this program.

If accepted, students will be required to sign a financial commitment agreement stating that if they withdraw from this program, voluntarily or involuntarily, after **November 24, 2021**, they agree to pay the amount equal to the non-recoverable expenses incurred by their withdrawal plus any Principia Abroad administrative fees. Even if all pre-paid expenses are recovered, a minimum \$500 fee may be levied.

The program cost, less any applicable financial aid, will be billed to each participant's Principia account and payment will be due by **April 26, 2022**.

Selection

Selection will take place during fall semester, 2021. Each applicant will be interviewed by the program faculty and program RC. Equal consideration will be given to all applications submitted by the application due date. See the [Study Abroad Student Selection Criteria](#) for additional information.

The Principia Abroad Office will notify each applicant by Week 8, fall semester 2021, regarding the decision on his/her application. Those eligible, but not accepted in the initial selection process, may be placed on a waiting list.

Participation in this program could be denied any accepted student whose grades put her or him on academic warning or academic probation. Students may also be removed from the program if not in good standing with regard to the *Principia Conduct Standards* or the [Study Abroad Student Code of Conduct](#).

Eligibility and Prerequisites

This abroad is open to **all** students in good academic and social standing, regardless of major. There are no prerequisites for the Slovenia, Croatia & Bosnia Study Abroad. If accepted, all participants are required to participate in the spring semester, 2022, World Literature course.

We expect students to show a commitment to solving problems metaphysically and to developing strength of character. Other fundamental criteria for selection include the student's responses to the essay questions on the application and responses in the interview with the program faculty and RC.

Cost

The cost of this abroad program will be the same as tuition for 4 semester hours, \$300 a week for room and board, airfare up to \$1,500, and a \$150 study abroad fee. Please see the "Financial Aid and Responsibility" section to the left to see how financial aid is applied, and when payment is due.

The following expenses will be INCLUDED in the program: all in-country accommodations and meals (room and board) and transportation; academic instruction and lectures; admission to scheduled sites, museums, and cultural activities planned as part of the program; and student travel insurance.

Costs NOT INCLUDED: Domestic US and international airfares up to \$1,500; \$150 fee; personal expenses; optional activities not planned as part of the program; and any other expense not specifically noted as included in the cost of the program.

Vaccine Information

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present challenges that require an informed approach to ensure ongoing safety for Principia College study abroad programming. Recent positive progress is encouraging and, to the extent risks can be mitigated, the Principia Study Abroad Office is committed to offering opportunities to study abroad through our [approved upcoming programs](#) should travel conditions improve as anticipated.

Uncertainties with international travel include the possibility of airlines, the U.S. government, foreign governments, and/or in-country partner program providers requiring COVID-19 (or other) vaccinations. Information or evidence about participants' status with regard to Covid-19 vaccination may be required by these entities. Program participants may be subject to these requirements, and need to be aware of them. Failure to comply with these requirements may mean inability to travel or participate in the study abroad program.

In order to manage the uncertainties of international travel safely and effectively, the Study Abroad Office will collect COVID-19 vaccination information, from all participating program faculty, staff, and students.

Study Abroad Application Instructions

- Applications can be found on the Study Abroad website: [Application Process](#), or directly from this link: <http://bit.ly/study-abroad-app-F21>
- To authenticate the Google Form application submission, you must use your Principia email address.
- **DUE DATE:** Your study abroad application, as well as the online signature forms from your resident counselor and academic advisor, **MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 5:00 pm on Wednesday, September 22 (Week 4)**. *No late applications will be accepted!*
- The application has 9 sections, and you must complete each section before moving to the next.
 1. **Personal Information:** The first section includes basic **personal information** including PO1 number, date of birth, citizenship, email, phone number, address, emergency contact(s), declared/expected major and minor, and expected graduation date.
 2. **References:** The second section includes **listing two references**, their emails and phone numbers. One is your personal/character reference and the other is for group learning.
 3. **Academic Advisor Meeting:** The third section confirms that you **met with your academic advisor** to discuss this study abroad program and that it does not conflict with any graduation requirements. You will send your academic advisor this signature page to confirm the meeting: <https://bit.ly/studyabroad-advisor-signature>
 4. **Resident Counselor Meeting:** The next section confirms that you **met with your resident counselor** to discuss your ability to demonstrate emotional maturity, personal responsibility, and commitment to adapt to different living and learning conditions. You will send your RC the signature form to confirm this meeting: <https://bit.ly/studyabroad-rc-signature>
 5. **Additional Questions:** The next section includes **additional questions** including previous international travel and previous abroads for which you have applied and been accepted or not accepted
 6. **Essay questions:**
 - a) Why you are interested in participating in this particular program;
 - b) Please describe your spiritual practice, in specific regard to how you envision it being relevant to participating in this study abroad program;
 - c) An experience where you needed to work to accomplish something with a group (consider your roles as leader and/or follower);
 - d) Your willingness to be responsible for your own learning as well as your willingness to be flexible and adventurous in your learning. Provide examples illustrating your ability to be a self-motivated, curious, fearless, and flexible learner;
 - e) Please describe what leadership looks like to you and give an example of leadership you have expressed or witnessed. Explain why your example demonstrates what you consider to be good leadership.

The last three sections include signing off on your understanding of the following topics:

7. **Financial Responsibility** – including commitment and withdrawal deadlines
 8. **Academic & Social Responsibility** – including that you have read the [Study Abroad Student Code of Conduct](#) and the [Study Abroad Student Selection & Eligibility Criteria](#)
 9. **Statement of Expectations** – including abiding by the standards set forth in the previous documents, [Principia's standards](#), additional standards stipulated by the program faculty or international laws and custom, and expectation that you will fully participate in all aspects of the program.
- Again, the application and two online signature forms must be received by **5:00 pm on Wednesday, September 22 (Week 4)**. Please be in touch with Study Abroad Program Manager Mary Jane Hoff with any questions – maryjane.hoff@principia.edu or 618-374-5214.