



University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Black Lives Matter: A Global Comparative Study

CEA CAPA Education Abroad's intentional program development and delivery helped students explore BLM in a global context



Overview

Born out of campus community discussions in response to the Black Lives Matter movement and funding from an IDEAS Grant, the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (UWM) developed the Global Studies Black Lives Matter: A Comparative Global Study in the UK course. UWM partnered with CEA CAPA Education Abroad in London to deliver the two-week immersive and intentional study abroad component of this newly designed curriculum.



University of
Wisconsin–
Milwaukee



Public
University

University of
Wisconsin System



Milwaukee,
Wisconsin

Midsize City



23,004

Undergraduates



IDEAS Grant Into A Study Abroad Program:

In 2021, the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee was awarded the IDEAS (Increase and Diversify Education Abroad for US Students) grant by the US Department of State. Through this grant, UMW designed a co-taught course with an affordable and accessible study abroad component focusing on the Black experience in the US and the UK. CEA CAPA's intentional and customized program offerings in London and commitment to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion ensured a strong partnership with UMW and an impactful study abroad experience for both students and faculty.

"The CEA CAPA program staff helped us think about the connection between Britain and the US and the history of chattel slavery in this country and how it has since pervaded and directed America life differently than life in the UK."

- Prof. David Pate



Careful consideration and collaboration with the study abroad office led to the decision of the program being offered in London. A global and diverse city, London offered the opportunity to expand the themes of democracy, human rights, and racial justice that were taught in the course. CEA CAPA's current work with the Wrongful Conviction London summer program provided our staff with the knowledge and understanding of the intentional themes and topics discussed across this program.

Diversity is a core value of CEA CAPA Education Abroad. It is reflected in the diversity of our global city locations and a critical learning and development outcome that engages all our students. We are committed to increasing student diversity and provide all participants a framework to explore, challenge, and redefine their identities in distinct ways. CEA CAPA's commitment to diversity extends to personal, experiential, and academic engagements throughout all of our communities. We strive to create inclusive environments for our students that allow them to experience and learn from people with diverse backgrounds, worldviews, and cultural traditions.

We provide students the tools they need—regardless of age, race and ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, and abilities—to fully experience the diversity of the world through our programs. We view our commitment to diversity as a form of social justice by promoting international education as an opportunity that is available and achievable for everyone.

OUR COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION



London as the location also offered the opportunity to travel to Bristol, UK, a city with a recent history related to the Black Lives Matter movement, including the 2020 toppling of the statue of Edward Colston and in keeping with the goal of accessibility of the program, was identified by the study abroad office as a popular and accessible destination choice for their student population.

A diversity grant was also built into the program to ensure that University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee students who were interested in participating in this program, could do so financially.

PROGRAM PROFILE

Location: London, UK

Term: Winter Term

Type: Study Abroad

Program Mode: Custom
Faculty-Led

of Students: 13

of Faculty: 2



Intentional JEDI Programming

To supplement the Comparative Global Study course taught by two UMW faculty, CEA CAPA curated experiential learning opportunities throughout London to allow student and faculty to delve deeper into the curriculum and the Black experience in the UK. “Traditional” walking tours and site visits detailing the history of London and the UK instead focused on the deeply engrained history of the Black community and how it has, and is continuing, to shape British history and culture. Students and faculty toured the British Museum, the South Bank area, and the Stuart Hall Library through a comparative Black history lens.

“The trip allowed me to confront my whiteness in ways I never have before. It was an enriching experience of culture, connection, and reflection.” - Sam Bastow, UMW Student

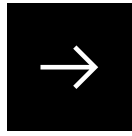
In collaboration with UWM faculty, local guest lecturers took the reins to enhance the course's connection with the local community. British guest speakers came from various backgrounds, including human rights campaigners, activists, and multi-disciplinary artists. CEA CAPA included site visits that were representative of the “now” in the Black community—including a trip to the Transforming Legacies exhibition hosted by Black Cultural Archives in Brixton.



"The BLM Study Abroad experience was uplifting. It expanded my own intellectual and cultural boundaries. This experience inspired me to rethink my approach to teaching and of continued expansion in the study abroad field, of collaborative and cross disciplinary curriculum design. This was a breath of fresh air..." - Prof. Portia Cobb

Self-directed experiences were also made available to faculty and students, allowing them to make a personal connection with the city and its communities. Curry night on Brick Lane, Swahili class at The School of African Languages at The Africa Centre, theater night on the West End and more, gave students and faculty the space to carve out “their London” across the two-week program.





Program Impact

"The Black Lives Matter: A Comparative Study winter study abroad has widened my perception of what it means to be a student. I discovered not only a new country but I also embraced the authentic truth found in Blackness through history, trauma, art, music and joy. Being a student to me now has a new meaning. As a student I seek what is beyond the classroom. I ask more questions and find determination to lead others into the self discovery of their culture. A student is a researcher, educator, artist and creator. My experience in the United Kingdom guided me to a deeper understanding of how to live in the most authentic, honest and truthful way I can.

Studying abroad has lead me to view my capabilities as infinite, with the understanding that knowledge and growth is everlasting.

I am grateful to be a part of a program that believes in discovering historical and present truths. I am grateful for the professors, students, CEA CAPA, and locals who guided me to refine what it means to be a student... what it means to be me."

- Yazmin Cruz, UMW Student