

# You're invited to participate in the WANG Center's Annual Photo & Video Contest



The 2024 Wang Center Photo & Video Contest will accept photos and videos from PLU students, faculty and staff who participated in a study away program in Spring 2023 through January 2024. Submissions are accepted year round. The DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 14, 2024. Those submitting photos and videos for the contest must be the photographer/videographer.

## **Photo Submission Categories**

- LUTES AWAY (Open to faculty, staff, and students): Your Lute spirit doesn't stop once you leave campus. Qualifying photos for this category must include PLU students, faculty, and/or staff. Ideally, your photo should include Lutes in a learning environment – even better if they are wearing Lute gear!
- GLOBAL CLASSROOM (open to students only): While studying away, students engage in learning both in and outside of classrooms. Qualifying photos for this category may depict student interaction with their host communities and their natural environment. Examples may include students in internship and service projects, field study, culturally relevant activities, group study tours, etc.
- SCENES FROM AROUND THE WORLD (open to students only): Be inspired by your new surroundings. Qualifying photos for this category may include wildlife, plants, natural and urban landscapes and landmarks.
- PEOPLE AND CULTURE (open to students only): Study away offers a unique opportunity to experience new cultures. Qualifying photos for this category may reflect the diversity of the people, cultures and artifacts of your host communities.

### **PHOTO PRIZES:**

- Wang Center staff will select a photo and name it as the “WANG CENTER STAFF PICK”. Along with the other winners, this photo will be on display at the Study Away Fair, in the Library for a short-term exhibit, on the Wang Center’s website, and in the Wang Center office for the 2024-2025 academic year.
- From the remaining submissions, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners will be selected from each of the four categories for a total of 12 selected photos.
- All winners will receive a printed copy of their photo and Certificate of Award.
- LuteBuck\$ will be awarded as follows:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$50
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$30
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$20
  - Wang Center Staff Pick - \$50

Only the 12 selected photos will be featured in the photo gallery space in the Anderson University Center for the 2024-2025 academic year. Winners will be notified of the results of the contest prior to the Study Away Fair.

### **PHOTO SUBMISSION PROCESS:**

- We are no longer accepting email submissions. Please submit your photos via the following link: <https://forms.gle/cPgVrvpUxh2YPoZ57>
- Submissions are accepted year round. The DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 14, 2024. Those submitting photos and videos for the contest must be the photographer/videographer.
- Sizing specifications: minimum 1MB, for iPhone photos select “Actual Size”
- SUBMITTED PHOTOS MUST INCLUDE:
  - Category Title
  - Name of Photographer

Expected graduation month/year (example May 2025) of Photographer

Title of Photo

Paragraph explaining the significance of the photo

Approximate Location and Date

- All submissions become the property of PLU, which will enjoy full rights of display and circulation (with attribution to the photographer). IF YOU SUBMIT ANY PHOTOGRAPH(S), YOU HAVE GRANTED THIS RIGHT.

### **Video Submission Overview (open to students only)**

The Wang Center will award one grand prize of \$200 for the student video that best captures the relationship to the local culture of their destination and their learning experiences. We challenge you to best represent life and learning on a PLU study away program. While montage videos are engaging, the best entries for this contest venture deeper and address the guiding question, "Why study away?". The video can use any audio/visual multimedia (e.g., video, flash, animation, cell phone) as long as the work is created for this contest and video length IS 1-3 MINUTES. Subject matter should be original and suitable for distribution.

Consult these resources:

- Rustin Dwyer's Video Tips for the Traveling Student: <http://www.plu.edu/marcom/video-tips-for-the-traveling-student/>
- Digital Storytelling Guide from UWT: <https://guides.lib.uw.edu/tacoma/digitalstorytelling>

### **VIDEO SUBMISSION PROCESS:**

- Please fill out the photo submission form: <https://forms.gle/cPgVrvpUxh2YPoZ57> Include your name, expected graduation month/year (example May 2025), study away program name (example PLU-Gateway Oaxaca, Mexico or CIEE United Arab Emirates), video title, and the link to your YouTube or Vimeo video.
- Videos are accepted year round. The DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 14, 2024. Those submitting videos for the contest must be the videographer.
- Video length: 1-3 minutes
- All submissions become the property of PLU, which will enjoy full rights of display and circulation (with attribution to the videographer). IF YOU SUBMIT ANY VIDEO LINKS YOU HAVE GRANTED THIS RIGHT.

### **CONTEST RULES:**

- Videographer must be a PLU student (or Dec 2023 graduate).
- Photographer must be a PLU student (or Dec 2023 graduate) or a faculty or staff member.
- Submissions must be original photographs/videos taken by the photographer/videographer during his/her *academic* travels from Spring 2023 through January 2024 (this includes PLU Gateway, Featured, Approved, Summer, BMBA Global Business Perspectives, and J-Term Study Away Programs, as well as educational travel for Wang Center Research Grants, Peace Scholars, and Spring Break programs sponsored by the Wang Center).
- Videographers may submit one (1) video.
- Photographers may submit one (1) photograph per category
  - Students may submit four (4) submissions maximum (students)
  - Faculty/Staff may submit one (1) photo only (Lutes Away category only)

- Each submitted photo/video must include the required information (see above) or it will not be considered.
- Digitally altered photos will not be considered. Cropping, sepia tone and black & white photos are the ONLY acceptable alterations.
- Avoid the use of copyrighted sounds/music/templates.  
Bensound (<https://www.bensound.com/free-music-for-videos>) and other related sites to access No Copyright/free music and sound. If the winning video contains copyrighted material, the videographer will submit a new version free from any copyrighted material prior to receiving their prize. PLU Marketing & Communications is available to assist videographers with the production of/source new assets for the new version.
- The Wang Center reserves the right to reject photos/videos that contain inappropriate content. Rejected photos/videos will be discarded without penalty to the contestant's other submissions.
- No more than one photo per person will be selected as a winner. Winners will receive awards based on their highest placing submissions.

### **Judging**

Judging will be conducted by a panels of PLU faculty, staff, and students based on the following criteria:

- Originality/creativity
- Photographic quality and visual impact
- Effectiveness in conveying the study away experience

### **Note**

Please see the attached document, "Ethical Considerations for Taking Photos in Other Countries and Cultures".

### **Questions?**

Contact the WANG Center for Global and Community Engaged Education  
Phone: 253-535-7577  
Email: wang.center@plu.edu

## Ethical Considerations for Taking Photos in Other Countries and Cultures

- 1) REFLECT ON *WHY YOU'RE TAKING A PHOTO*: Is it because you want to remember something, show your family your hotel, create a record of a place or people, or because taking pictures just seems natural? Many people take photos when they travel because they need to feel busy or to put something between them and new surroundings. Take time to simply enjoy the experience and realize different types of photos require time and care to take.
- 2) BE INTERACTIVE: Try to take more interactive photos compared to objective ones. Try to always ask permission when taking pictures of people. Getting people's' names and stories as well as their photo can be a meaningful experience. It also will give more meaning to your photo when you bring it back and helps avoid the objectification of people that can commonly happen in photos of unfamiliar places, especially ones we think of as more "exotic".
- 3) WHAT'S IN AND WHAT'S OUT?: Think about what you want to include in your pictures – and then look at what you might be leaving out. Are you ignoring part of a person's life or the story of a town because you don't think it is "picturesque enough"? Realize that no photo is going to capture the reality of any place you visit, so think about how you can strive to show many different aspects of a place or culture, not just the tourist spots or well-known parts of a culture that everyone takes photos of.
- 4) CONSIDER AND RESPECT HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL ASPECTS AND LAWS: Most people know to ask permission to take photos in sacred or religious sites, but many countries also have laws against taking photos of government buildings and more. And even if there is no law against taking a photo, be respectful of the culture – a city, village, or landscape is not there for you to consume through your camera, but is part of the lives of those in your host country. Consider whether your photo is an appropriate representation of the culture or if it would reinforce negative stereotypes or aspects of a culture that the majority of the citizens would find embarrassing or shameful.
- 5) SHOW PEOPLE YOUR CAMERA AND PHOTOS: Digital cameras are great to interact with people you might take photos of. Kids especially like to see themselves on the camera screens. Letting people you meet play with your camera a little can be a hit too if you are spending a good amount of time with someone.
- 6) PHOTO EXCHANGE: When possible, try to find a way to give a copy of the photo to the people you take pictures of. Getting their address and sending them a photo is sometimes an option. If you are meeting people through an organization or traveling with a company, think about sending them the photos to distribute. You could also bring photos of yourself or your family to give out to people when you take their photo or meet them.
- 7) THINK ABOUT YOUR CAPTIONS: When you present a photo, be intentional about captions and how you choose to label and title a photo. When possible, give names and details and a greater context to the photo and be careful about what you are and are not comparing the people or place to. The photos should be part of a story you can share with people once you return home.
- 8) BE MINDFUL OF THE CONTENT OF THE PHOTO: Be respectful of the people you are photographing and their right to privacy. Are the photos of situations or circumstances someone would not want publicly shared? Especially take into consideration local citizens who may be the recipients of social and human services, such as food and supplies from local food banks, and

taking photos of local residents who may live in shelters.

- 9) REFLECTING OR BRAGGING?: Posting incredible images of stunning views and landscapes on social media may inspire other students to embark on their own study away journey! While your intentions may be good, be cognizant that not everyone is as privileged as you are, don't make your posts about yourself / do make your posts about the people and the place you're visiting, and be selective (i.e., don't over-share).

Created by Bryanna Plog '10. Adapted: April 2012, August 2013, September 2016.