



INSPIRING EDUCATION ABROAD

The quirky newsletter from your friends at Academic Solutions

MORE GREAT STORIES INSIDE:

- Academic Solutions at Forum EMEA Milan
- We're building our diverse ecosystem in Barcelona



GLOBAL INCLUSION HERE WE COME!

Written by Ryan Lorenz
Founder & Director

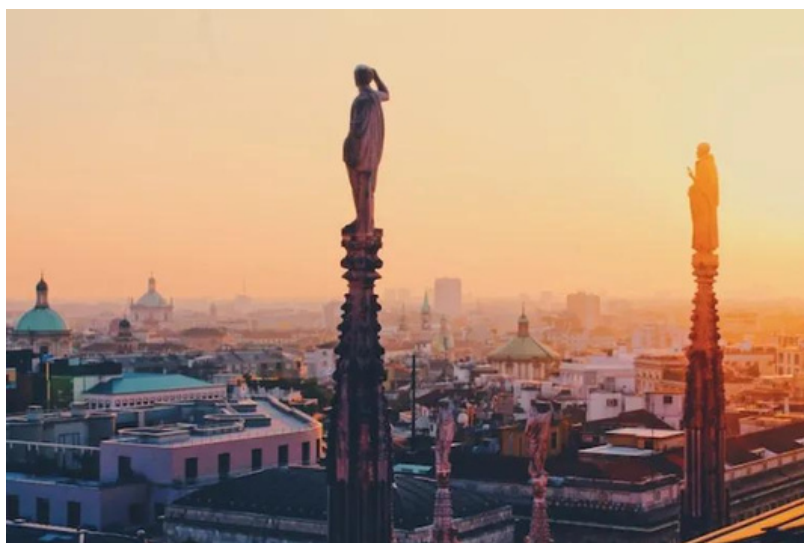
Rachel and I will be attending Diversity Abroad's 10th Edition of the Global Inclusion conference in San Francisco the week of 3rd October 2022. This will be our first Diversity Abroad conferencing event in person thanks to the pandemic lockdowns. We attended virtually for the past two years, but are far more excited about seeing old colleagues and making new ones—in person! We also look forward to attending the pre-conference workshops *Strategy and Leadership as Tools for Dismantling Unjust (Inequitable) Systems* and *Health and Safety from a DEI Lens*.

Academic Solutions was this month's Diversity Abroad Member Spotlight that gave a particular emphasis on just how valuable we find their resources, events and network. We are proud to serve on DA's Communities of Practice and our partnership with Diversity Abroad and its many members is one we expect to nurture and grow over the coming years. Let us join together on the long journey ahead toward inclusivity through systemic change. Diversity Abroad is a vital partner as we develop our framework for diversity and inclusion in our programs, processes and partnerships.

We hope to see you at the Global Inclusion conference.

CI VEDIAMO A MILANO!

Written by Kristin Hickey
Barcelona Program Manager



Ryan and I are headed to Forum Week in Milan for the Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) conference! We are excited to be back on the road and what better way to celebrate the arrival of fall than with a second in-person conference and an opportunity to share with colleagues from near and far. The theme of the conference, “Open to Each Other: Elevating Voices and Expanding Global Dialogues” resonates loudly with our team, as we forge ahead on our path toward a culture of belonging. Now is the time to elevate voices that have been historically silenced, and we are thrilled to be included in this space where we hope to listen, learn and help facilitate real change that is long overdue.

In order to get the most out of our conference experience, we are excited to participate in two pre-conference workshops. The first one, Climate Action: Education Abroad for a Healthy Planet, is important to us as part of our commitment to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Part of our responsibility as stakeholders in the field of international education is to integrate climate change measures into our programming, not only to be good models for our students, but also to contribute to mitigating the effects of a rapidly declining planetary well-being.

The second workshop we will be attending is Supporting Students’ Mental Health in Education Abroad. Always relevant, perhaps now more than ever, supporting mental health remains a top priority to us as students are returning to in-person study abroad programs after nearly two years of disrupted international experiences.

Hope to see our global partners in Milan!



**FORUMEA WEEK
IN MILAN, ITALY**

October 17 - 21, **2022**

BUILDING DIVERSE COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS ON-SITE IN BARCELONA!

Written by Rachel Mantiñán
Global Equity & Inclusion Officer



On the ground here in Barcelona, we have started some new initiatives for this semester with the ongoing goal of building a diverse community for both students and staff to engage with, learn from, and ultimately grow our Academic Solutions community in new ways.

At the start of Fall 2022 we welcomed three local ambassadors to participate in our orientation sessions, as well as design and lead their own activities with students. Our ambassadors are local, young, energetic and each represent Barcelona in different ways. During orientation they shared their own personal Barcelona stories, advice and recommendations and answered students' burning questions. Sebastián, originally from Venezuela and local to Barcelona for 7 years, is currently completing his undergrad degree in Philosophy. Sebas took the students to different events for the *fiesta mayor* in the city - *La Mercè*. Fabienne, an Afro-German woman and local to Barcelona for 1 year, is finishing her final undergrad year in Social Education. Fabie opened up the Afro side of the city to students by taking them to an Afrobeats dance class and tapas afterward. Hugo is a Poli Sci student who was born and raised between Barcelona and London. Hugo took the students hiking and on a stroll of the Art Nouveau buildings and a jazz concert to finish off the night. Sebas, Fabie and Hugo were a huge success with the students (and staff) and we can't wait to continue connecting them with new groups in the future!

On the staff side of things, we are gearing up for our Fall DEIB training. We do one staff training per semester. In the past these have been on Inclusive Communication, Intersectionality, Implicit Bias, and Gender Violence, to name a few. This Fall our training will be focusing on Antiracism and the Black experience in the US and Spanish-European context. The training will be led by Afrofemkoop, a local antiracist and feminist cooperative serving Barcelona's social fabric in more ways than one. We are so very thrilled to be joining the Afrofemkoop community, and are eager for the relationship to grow in ways beyond the training in the future.

BASIC AFRODANCE with FABIE

Wednesday 14.09.22
(7:15 PM to 9 PM)
Museu Can Framis Barcelona
Max.: 20 People

★★ **CELEBREMOS LA MERCÈ** ★★

FRIENDS LIVE MUSIC HUMAN TOWERS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24TH

COME READY TO HAVE FUN

JOIN OUR LOCAL AMBASSADOR SEBASTIÁN!

