Each year the study abroad offices in Bloomington and Indianapolis invite IU students returning from abroad to submit photos. With the official objective of choosing the best photos in a variety of categories, staff of the two offices each year get to see the world anew through the eyes of their students. A sampling of students’ efforts appears here. The complete set of winning photos can be viewed online at:

overseas.iu.edu/return/photo/2015.shtml
abroad.iupui.edu/why-study-abroad/photo-contest/index.html

IU Bloomington 1st place IU Students Abroad: “Sketching the Sydney Harbor Bridge,” Australia. Yuwei (Evelyn) Bai, College of Arts and Sciences (Liberal Arts and Management Program, Psychology, Economics).
IUPUI 1st place Powerful Moments: “Simplicity,” Cartago, Costa Rica. Morgan Moran, IUPUI Honors College. “While volunteering at an orphanage in Cartago, I spent a lot of time doing simple activities that the children liked to do. We played tic-tac-toe with rocks as our chalk. Although it was something so simple, it helped us form a bond... even when I lost.”
IUPUI 3rd place Cultural Adventure: “Balata the Bountiful.” Karen McIlrath, IUPUI Office of Student Involvement Alternative Spring Break. “We hiked along the coast and the locals spotted a Balata tree! It was so awesome, one of the locals scaled up the tree with a machete and cut down a branch where we all collected the sweet fruit and ate until our bellies were content. (Yemi Harford models the fruit.)”
IU Bloomington. “University Exams;” Cape Town, South Africa. Rebecca Sanders, College of Arts and Sciences, School of Global and International Studies (International Studies). “Indiana University finals don’t seem so bad, when comparing them to the University of Cape Town’s. Students sit for three hours to take exams worth over 50 percent of their grade.”

IU Bloomington. “Kathakali, Himalayan Healer;” Cochin, Kerala, India. Lavanya Narayanan, Bloomington School of Public Health (Nutrition Science). “What better way to spend a weekend than on a houseboat watching Kathakali, a traditional dance form native to Kerala?”
“Libby in the Rubble.” Amanda Derr, IU School of Social Work. “While in Croatia we explored some of the areas most affected by the Balkans War in the 90s. During one of our excursions, we stopped by a hotel that was completely destroyed. Inside we found some pretty interesting graffiti. The entire experience was a powerful one, simply because finding beauty in devastation is hard to do.”
IU Bloomington. “Don Quijote,” Alcalá de Henares, Spain. Mary Anne Smart, College of Arts and Sciences (Mathematics, Spanish, Computer Science). “The mural depicts Don Quixote fighting the windmills.” It was painted by Rep Miguel in Cervantes’s hometown.