# Junior Year Abroad 30 Years Late: A Life-Changing Experience

#### **Eight Months in Provence: A Junior Year Abroad 30**



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I always dreamed of studying abroad in college. I imagined myself living in a charming European city, attending lectures in a centuries-old university, and making friends from all over the world. But life had a different plan for me. I got married, had children, and put my dreams on hold.

Thirty years later, my children were grown and I was finally free to pursue my dream. I applied to a study abroad program in Paris and was thrilled to be accepted. I packed my bags and headed off to the City of Light, ready for the adventure of a lifetime. At first, it was overwhelming. I was surrounded by young people, most of whom were half my age. I didn't know anyone and I didn't speak French very well. But I was determined to make the most of this experience.

I started taking French classes and practicing my language skills with the other students in my program. I also made an effort to get to know the local people. I went to cafes, visited museums, and attended cultural events. Slowly but surely, I started to feel more comfortable.

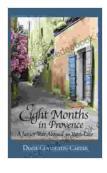
One of the best things about studying abroad was the opportunity to learn about a new culture. I was fascinated by French history, art, and cuisine. I learned about the French Revolution, visited the Louvre, and ate my way through countless croissants and baguettes.

Another highlight of my experience was the friendships I made. I met people from all over the world, including the United States, Canada, Australia, and China. We shared meals, went on excursions, and learned about each other's cultures. I made lifelong friends who I still keep in touch with today.

Of course, there were also challenges. I missed my family and friends back home. I got sick a few times. And there were days when I felt overwhelmed by the language barrier. But I never gave up. I knew that this was a oncein-a-lifetime opportunity and I was determined to make the most of it.

Studying abroad in my junior year of college, 30 years late, was one of the best decisions I ever made. It was a challenging but rewarding experience that changed my life in many ways. I learned about myself, about other cultures, and about the world. I made lifelong friends and memories that I will cherish forever.

If you have always dreamed of studying abroad, I encourage you to go for it. It is never too late to pursue your dreams. And who knows, you might just have the adventure of a lifetime.

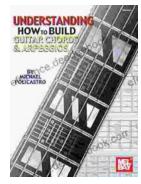


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Years Late by Diane Covington-Carter

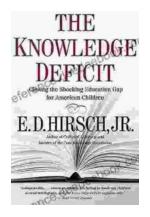
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