

Illustrated tentative itinerary

Geoscience of Switzerland and Northern Italy

7-21 July 2024

MTSU Department of Geosciences and Education Abroad

Geol 3401 Field Course (4 hrs)



Want to stay informed? Contact Mark.Abolins@mtsu.edu .

Also, visit <http://capone.mtsu.edu/mabolins/SwitzerGeology.htm> for updates.

Reduce what you pay [by applying for scholarships](#).

Most students who have a Pell Grant can also receive a Gilman International Scholarship. That scholarship reduces the total all-inclusive cost to less than \$2,000.

MTSU Geosciences Switzerland & Alpine Italy 2024

Application Instructions

1) Submit an application to MTSU Education Abroad:

<https://mtsu.studioabroad.com/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgramAngular&id=69560> .

2) Submit \$500 non-refundable deposit. Important: forward receipt to

Mark.Abolins@mtsu.edu .

Please use the following link and instructions to make a payment by debit or credit card for Education Abroad:

https://secure.touchnet.com/C20134_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=81&SINGLESTORE=true

- Select "Study Abroad Payment"
- Enter the payment amount then "Add to Cart"
- Type in the "Traveler Name" (person going on the trip)
- Type in the "Student ID" number (M#)
- Type in the "Location or Reason" (**Abolins Switzerland**)
- Type in the "Index Code" which should have been provided by the instructor (**590078-58362**)
- Click "Continue"
- Review the amount then click "Checkout"
- Enter in your email address then "Continue"
- Enter in your credit card information
- Click "Continue" and it will then ask you for the MTSU ID number.
- Click "Review Order" then "Submit Order."

After applying and submitting a deposit, apply for scholarships including most especially the Commitment Scholarship. The first 10 (up from 8) who apply and make a \$500 deposit are eligible for the Commitment Scholarship.

<https://mtsu.studioabroad.com/index.cfm?FuseAction=Abroad.ViewLink&ParentID=DB42D4EA-5056-BA1F-7240BBE7C30BEF73&LinkID=5AC2B662-26B9-58D3-F5713C5FCF91848B>

Highlights

*** Visit spectacular alpine locations including the glaciers of Zermatt, Aletsch Glacier, Glarus Thrust, Flims giant landslide, Rhine Gorge, and Lucerne Gletschergarten. ***

*** Tour the world-class University of Zurich Paleontological Museum and the fascinating ETH focusTerra . ***

*** Experience Switzerland, a country which leads in livability and sustainability. ***

*** Journey to a place where 4 languages are officially spoken: German, French, Italian, and Romansh. ***

*** Travel by taking advantage of an extensive, high-quality rail and bus network. ***

*** Enjoy a day off in Milan, Italy. ***

In 2024 students will also have the option of learning about the climate and sustainability by wearing small temperature and humidity sensors. How are the Swiss and Italians setting their thermostats, and by how much do indoor conditions differ from conditions outside?

About the professor

Mark Abolins, Ph.D. completed a graduate course on Alpine geology and traveled to Switzerland and Northern Italy while pursuing a doctorate at the California Institute of Technology. In 2022, he shared his passion for the mountains, caves, and the European continent with students on a MTSU Education Abroad experience in Switzerland and Northern Italy. At MTSU he teaches a variety of courses including courses about mountains and caves.



Day 1 (7 July). Arrive and recover! Maybe do some exploring in Zurich if you feel energetic.

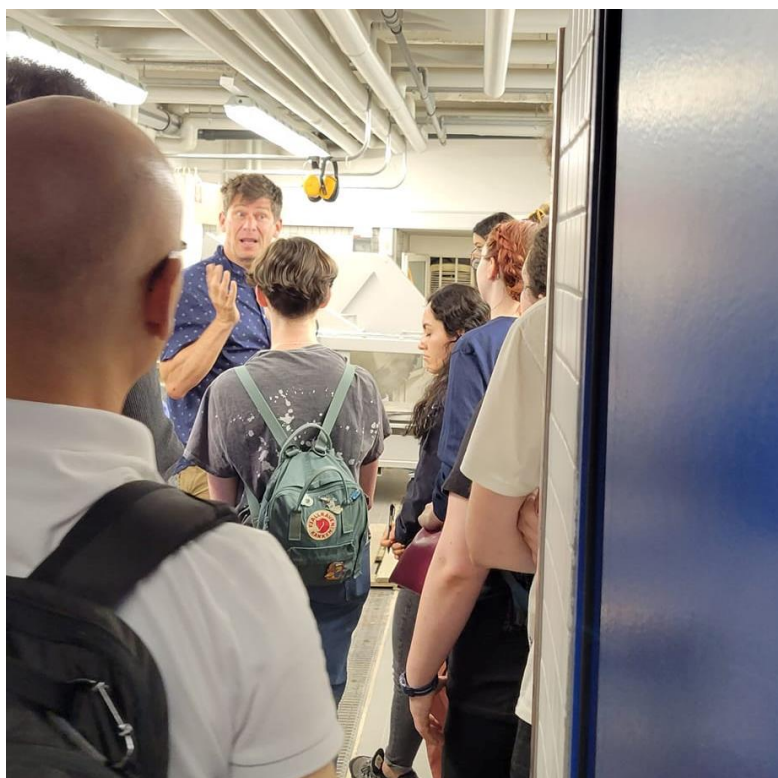
Below: Mark Abolins (left) and a few students in the departure lounge at Nashville International Airport on 15 May 2022. Other students traveled on other flights.



Day 2 (8 July).

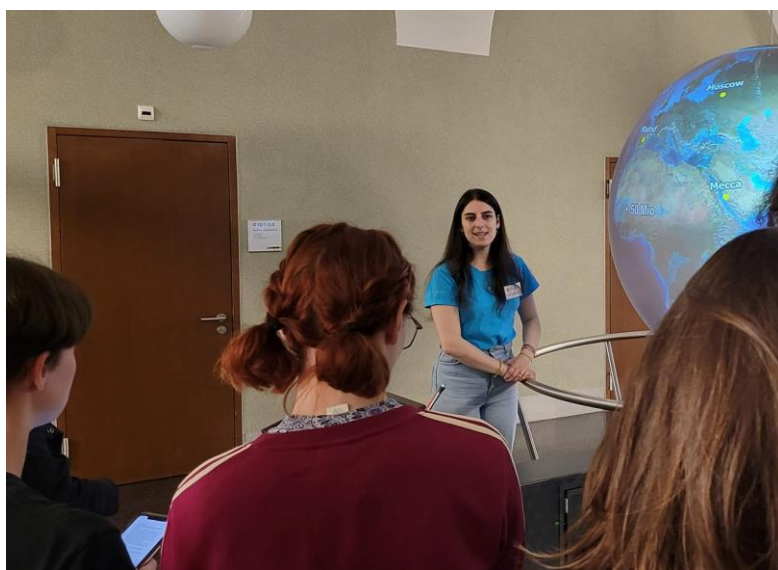
[The Glarus Thrust at Schwanden](http://structuralgeologyof.weebly.com/contractional/glarus-overthrust-fault-david-martineau) on 18 May 2022. Left: The MTSU students are every bit as awesome as they look, and the thrust is cooler than it looks. More info for Geology buffs: <http://structuralgeologyof.weebly.com/contractional/glarus-overthrust-fault-david-martineau> .





Day 3 (9 July).

[University of Zurich Paleontological Museum](#). Left: Dr. Christian Klug shares a behind-the-scenes look at University of Zurich Paleontological Museum laboratories with MTSU students on 17 May 2022.



[ETH focusTerra](#). Left: ETH Environmental Science master's student Stella Braunschweig explains alpine tectonics to students on 18 May 2022.

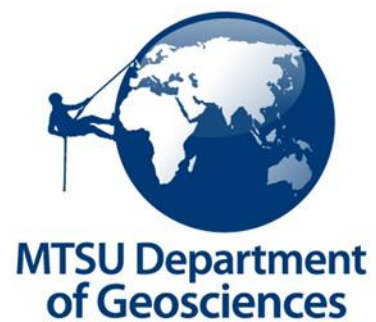
Days 4-5 (10-11 July). Visit to Flims in Graubunden, home of the unique Romansh culture. Below: Flims giant landslide scar as soon from hotel window on 19 May 2022. Don't worry because the mountain fell down several thousand years ago. Bottom: landslide scars in the [Ruinaulta \(Rhine Gorge\)](#) On 20 May 2022.



Day 6 (12 July). Students take the [Bernina Express](#) across the top of the Alps and arrive in Chiareggio, Italy. Below: the Swiss-Italian border region as seen from the Bernina Express.



Day 7 (13 July). Near Chiareggio, students visit what was the lower continental crust many millions of years ago.



Day 8 (14 July). Day off in Milan, Italy. Some students went to the [Duomo](#) (below).



Days 9-12 (15-18 July). Zermatt and Bettmeralp in Switzerland. Words do not really add much to these images of the [Matterhorn](#), [Aletsch Glacier](#), and [Gornergrat](#) taken 25-27 July 2022.



Aletsch Glacier



Matterhorn Glacier Paradise



The Matterhorn from Zermatt



Day 13 (July 19). [Lucerne](#)
[Gletschergarten](#). Guide Magrit Egli
shares the geology of the Lucerne
Glacier Garden with students on the
28 May 2022.



Day 14 (July 20). [Hölloch Cave](#). Guide
Freddie leads students through the
cave on 29 May 2022.



Day 15 (21 July). Onward to your next destination in life . . .