

EAP Student Testimonials: South Korea, Spain, & Italy



Kaitlyn Do
South Korea - Yonsei University, Seoul
2021-2022

During my junior year, I had the unforgettable opportunity to study abroad at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea. Aside from being a country I have been yearning to visit since high school, I wanted to continue learning Korean in the most authentic and immersive environment. Although navigating Seoul with ease was a challenge in of itself, venturing outside of South Korea's robust capital and into the countryside truly tested my Korean language skills by overcoming regional accents. As an avid foodie, I have found Busan's seafood and Jeonju's traditional cuisine most memorable, and journeying to Korea's seaside helped ease my homesickness during the holidays. Participating in language exchange programs fostered my friendships with local students who intended to study abroad in the United States.

Academically, working with East Asian texts and influences while enrolled in psychology, philosophy, and multimedia courses allowed for the development of a broadened scope of analysis that I am currently applying to my literary research after returning to UCSB. As an ardent advocate for mental health, I was also elated to work with my professor to develop a didactic game with goals of increasing awareness surrounding depression and dementia in modern Korean society.

Living abroad has not only naturally fostered my independence as a young adult, it has moved me to cherish the various cultural identities at home as South Korea celebrates its own.



Jolie Gobler
Spain - Complutense University of Madrid
2021-22

I studied abroad during my third year at the Complutense University of Madrid in Spain. Going abroad for an entire year was a little bit scary, because I knew I would miss out on things at UCSB, and I had no idea what my life would be like in Madrid. But of course, it ended up being a really amazing experience for me. I learned Spanish and became familiar with Spanish culture. I fell in love with Madrid and made some amazing friendships. There were ups and downs, though. Some days were harder than others as I dealt with homesickness, school-related anxiety, and feeling out of place. However, overcoming these challenges taught me a lot about myself. I learned that I am capable of doing hard things and I can take care of myself all on my own. The confidence I gained, in addition to all the amazing memories and friendships I made during my time abroad, made it an experience that I wouldn't trade for the world.



Lauryn Smith
Italy – Florence
Fall 2021

Studying abroad in Florence, Italy was a transformative experience that allowed me to learn about myself and the world around me in new and profound ways. Before the program, I had never traveled alone, let alone to a different continent, so I was understandably nervous about what to expect. However, living in Florence gave me the opportunity to push myself outside of my comfort zone and develop skills like independence and adaptability. The city's small size made it easy to explore and become familiar with my surroundings, and there was always something new to discover. Whether it was wandering through the streets or admiring the architecture, there was always a sense of excitement and wonder that filled each day. One of the things that stood out to me the most during my time in Florence was the sense of community that I felt. Despite being in a foreign country, I never felt alone or isolated. Whether it was my classmates, my friends, or the locals, everyone was incredibly welcoming and supportive. Studying abroad in Florence taught me how to appreciate diversity and embrace new experiences. I returned home with a newfound sense of confidence and independence, and I know that the lessons I learned during my time abroad will stay with me for the rest of my life. Overall, studying abroad in Florence was an incredible experience that allowed me to grow and learn in ways that I never could have imagined.