Program: Monash University Exchange, Spring

Riley’s Major: Communication Arts

Academic Life: Aside from one of my classes which was designed for international students, all my other classes were taken with Australian students. A popular structure for many of the classes at Monash is weekly seminars lasting for two hours. The first hour was a standard lecture and the second hour was more like a discussion with the instructor and the rest of the class. With this structure I was able to talk to many Australians who were my age and studying similar courses as me, which was another great way to see a new perspective in the classroom.

Housing: I lived in the dorms on one of the campuses at Monash. They were pretty much exactly what you would imagine when you think of dorms. I had my own room and shared a coed bathroom with about 7 other students with a single toilet, and a single shower. I wouldn’t have changed anything though because the dorms were where I made most of my friends, both other international students and Australian students. I don’t think I would’ve made as many friends as I did if I didn’t live in the dorms.

Advice For Someone Considering this Program: Go for it! Melbourne and Victoria have so much diversity in the people, landscape, and culture just within a small area that you could find something new to discover every day.

Tips For Students Considering Studying Abroad: It’s never too early to start planning. I talked to a Peer Advisor over a year before I actually applied for my program and even at that point the only thing I was sure about was that I wanted to study in Australia. I even changed which program I applied for about a week before the applications were due, but because I had planned ahead and had done other research into the programs, I am still on track to graduate!

“Studying abroad has made me so much more confident in myself!”