Caroline Radaj

PARIS, FRANCE

Caroline’s Majors: Communication Arts (Radio, TV & Film) & Journalism (Strategic Communications)

Program: Film in Paris (summer), Faculty-led

Academics: I took one class, which was a French Film class towards my Communication Arts degree. The class was taught at the ACCENT center, a small school building that was off this really busy street in Paris in the Bastille district.

Cultural Differences: The most significant cultural difference was the amount of time Parisians took to eat their meals. Lunch was their most important meal and would last around three hours. They take their time to eat and enjoy the company of others while eating. Dinner is an important meal, as well, but happens way later at night, around 8 or 9 p.m.

Personal Growth: I feel what sets me apart from other students who have not studied abroad is the ability to pick up my life and go somewhere with little to no planning and feel safe and feel confident in my sense of travel and intuition. You may think you have a plan but usually it will change completely when you get to your destination.

Advice for Students Considering this Program: I was in a class every day but I was out in the city exploring more than I was in the classroom. It was through that exploration that I learned the most. I realized how much everything became second nature to me - getting on the RER or metro to go to class or anywhere else I needed to go - and knowing the customs.

“The thing about Paris is you’ll never have enough time to discover it all and, in my eyes, that’s what makes it so magical.”

Caroline participated in the IAP Film in Paris summer Program.