Cody’s Major: International Studies, History & French

Program: Academic Program in Aix-en-Provence, Spring

Academic Life: The classroom experience in Aix-en-Provence was exceptional, mostly due to the wide variety of academic options we were offered. When you apply to the program in Aix, students are offered an option between two French universities: l’Université de Provence & Sciences-Po, both of which where students take classes alongside French students. Personally, I chose to attend l’Université de Provence while also taking classes with fellow American students in our program office taught by our on-site professor. Because I came to France on the lower end of the program’s French language requirement, taking program courses with fellow Americans while also attending courses alongside French students was the perfect mix for me at my linguistic comfort level. But, if you’re confident enough to fully immerse yourself into the French university system, you have that option as well.

Most Memorable Experiences: The weekly dinners I would have with a French family, an opportunity offered through the program. For the first hour or so, I would talk with their children in English as a means for them to practice, and later we would have dinner with conversation in French. I truly felt welcomed and our relationship continued to flourish as the semester went on. I miss them dearly!

Language: Personally, going to France, I was really worried about my language ability since I had only taken two years of French before leaving. But after a few months, I was pleasantly surprised at how much I could comprehend and how much my speaking ability vastly improved within a short time frame. When I returned home this translated into a better understanding of French, and I began to feel more self confident while doing everyday tasks, knowing that I had succeeded in adapting to previous challenges abroad.

“If you truly want to gain real life language experience and fully immerse yourself in an attractively different culture, Aix-en-Provence is the place for you!”

Cody outside the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.