Program: CIEE Contemporary French Studies in Paris, Fall

Carrie’s Majors: Microbiology, French

Academic Life: All of my classes were held in the CIEE center, which was in the middle of a busy district in Paris. The class sizes were small, which led to an environment that made it easy to make friends with peers and professors. One grammar and one conversation class is required for everyone in French, and then three electives that can be in either French or English; I took all French classes. All of the students in my program were American college students from all over the country, and the professors were all native French speakers who were extremely knowledgeable in their respective subjects.

Most Memorable Moments: The best parts were the excursions in Paris. All of the classes we took sent us around Paris to find information about what we were learning, like Art History took us to different museums to see the pieces that we were learning about.

Living with a Local Host: I lived in an apartment in the 11th arrondissement with my host dad and sister, in a hip area with lots of cool cafés and boutiques. I had my own room and bathroom, which was great. Host families are great in the sense that you get the real experience of what it would be like to grow up and live in France, while also having your independence to come and go as you please. I wouldn’t trade my experience for the world.

Studying a Language Abroad: The level of my French speaking improved more in this semester than it did in the past two years of French classes! Living in a country that doesn’t speak English forces you to practice pronunciation and syntax, which are things that you can only learn by practice, and not out of a book.

“I’m so happy that I found another home in Paris.”