Emily’s Majors: Communication Arts, English

Program: UW Film in Paris, Summer

Academic Life: In Paris, we took one course on French New Wave filmmaking from UW Professor Kelley Conway. We met every morning at 10 AM to screen a French film and discuss it. We also went out to different cinemas in Paris for showings. We saw older Hollywood films at small art cinemas like “Gentlemen Prefer Blondes” at the Cinema Christine, as well as new releases like “The Grand Budapest Hotel” at a major movie theater chain. Beyond that, we were asked to give a guided tour to the class with two other classmates, sharing the history and significance of a specific neighborhood in Paris. We also presented a final project, which was an in depth analysis of one of the films we studied. There were twelve students in the program, so we had the chance to get to know each other and Kelley on a very close level.

Housing: We lived in an apartment complex in the Bastille district of Paris. The area was filled with young Parisians, nice cafes, bakeries… not touristy whatsoever. We lived in studio apartments and each had our own room. The residence was only a five minute walk away from where we had class. Living in a neighborhood like that really allowed us to immerse ourselves in the lifestyle and blend in.

Advice for Someone Considering This Program: This particular program is taught in English and does not require any previous knowledge of French. For me, that was a godsend. Even if you don’t know a lick of French, you will be able to pick up necessary words and phrases to get yourself around. I had taken one semester of French, which helped a bit, but most of what I learned came from being there, not from the classroom. Don’t let the language barrier scare you.

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