FREIBURG, GERMANY

TESSA COGGIO

Tessa’s Majors: International Studies, German, European Studies Certificate, Business Certificate

Program: Academic Year in Freiburg, Academic Year

Academic Life: AYF allows the classroom experience to be tailored to YOU-- your field of study, your desired workload, your German speaking ability. I took a mix of AYF classes with other American students and classes at the university with German students. I liked the language and academic challenge of the German classes. It was a way to meet new people and experience first-hand how the education system works in Germany. The AYF classes were more similar to classes here at UW. There were more assignments and we met twice a week. It was fun to take classes with my friends, go on weekend or day long field trips and STILL learn a lot about European and German topics.

On Cultural Differences: Germans know how to enjoy their free time. They travel a lot, go on vacation and are HAPPY to spend their time and money doing those things. It’s a contrast to the US and especially on campus here where students seem to be working ALL the time. A lot of economic, social and cultural factors contribute to this.

Most Memorable Moments: There are so many... this question is actually quite difficult to answer. One memory with the swim team I joined in Freiburg definitely sticks out. We went to a weekend long swim meet, so I got to know everyone really well and I spent the entire weekend speaking ONLY German. Extra curriculars are a must if you participate in AYF! They open up so many doors.

“Know yourself before going abroad, and be open to being a different person when you come back.”