Program: SRISA, Spring

Victoria’s Major: Interior Architecture

Academic Life: The program brought together American students from all over the United States. My classes were taught in English. What I enjoyed most was the field trips or on-site learning that supplemented our academics. The program overall is pretty small so the class size ranged from as little as 7 people to around 20.

Personal Gains: For the design world, I have been able to see and experience different environments and architectural styles and designs. I was able to visit spaces and building I have learned about in the classroom. I have a wider perspective of international relations, and have utilized problem solving skills and gained independence abroad that I wouldn’t have had otherwise if I didn’t study abroad.

Impact on Future Career: I hope to work with companies internationally with design. I hope to continue to learn Italian so having language fluency will give me an advantage. Being exposed to a lot of culture and design shows employers I want to be a well-rounded designer who has a thirst to observe and experience different types of environments.

Advice for Someone Considering SRISA: Coming from a large university to a small art school program was a little bit of an adjustment in terms of administration and support. The program has everyone’s best interest. Florence is a very touristic city so people may be surprised if they are looking for an “authentic” experience. If you are pursuing classes for fields in the realm of art, history, or fashion, I would recommend looking into the program.

Tips for Future Students: Choose a place and program that will support you and strengthen your academic, career, and personal aspirations. The interactions with the people, culture, and values of the area will significantly impact your experience.

“\(\text{I was able to be in a culture that had strong values in design and visual aesthetics, which was an enriching environment.}\)”

Victoria at Piazzale Michelangelo with the Duomo of Florence in the background.

VICTORIA JOHNSON