ROME, ITALY

CAITLIN CRAIGHEAD

Program: John Cabot University, Spring

Caitlin’s Major: Environmental Studies, Geography

Academic Life: My academic experience at JCU was much different than my experience at Madison, and one of the biggest adjustments for me. I took an introductory Italian class that really helped me understand the basics of the language. My professor liked to take us around the city to different places, like markets and shopping areas, to use our Italian and interact with people. One class I thought was really unique was my on-site class. We would meet at a different location around Rome every week and talk about different monuments and ancient sites. I really enjoyed this idea because it got us out of the typical classroom setting and showed us a very visual way to learn about ancient Rome.

Housing: I lived in a neighborhood called Trastevere where both campuses were located. The area is an endless maze of cobblestone alleys filled with shops, restaurants and people. There is an area called the Gianicolo Hill, a short walk from the Gianicolo Residence on campus, that is a park on top of the hill where you will find a fantastic view of the whole city. It’s hidden treasures like this that make this neighborhood so unique and humbling to live in.

Italy as a Second Home: Italy felt like home shortly after I arrived. After finding my favorite gelato shops, going to the grocery store weekly and browsing through the fresh markets on the weekends, the employees began to recognize me. Although I would struggle in my attempts to ask for things in Italian at first, it was rewarding when they would appreciate my efforts. It didn’t take me long to navigate the city by foot, tram or bus, and by the end I felt like a master of the city.

“...capable than you think, to live in a new country on your own, and I think that Rome and its culture will bring out the best in you.”