Program: John Cabot University, Summer

Mei Li’s Majors: Communication Arts, English, and the Digital Studies Certificate

Academic Life: At John Cabot University I was in classes with students from all over the world, including local Roman students. It was a fantastic cultural immersion and it really introduced me to various lifestyles and customs that differed from the American lifestyle. As an undergraduate student, my main topic of study is the development of society, culture and media and how it affects the future. With this interest in mind, I enrolled in Intro to Cinema and Web Design 1. Both of my classes consisted of approximately 20-25 students and one professor. The classes were essentially just like the discussion sections at UW-Madison. We met once a day, Monday through Thursday, for an hour and 45 minutes. I really liked these smaller class sizes because it allowed everyone to become comfortable with each other and to not be afraid to participate in class conversations and ask questions. I really felt like I got close to my professors and classmates that summer.

Mei Li’s Favorite Part of Studying Abroad: Exploring the beautiful ancient city of Rome was my favorite part about studying abroad. John Cabot University is located on the left side of the Tiber River in a middle-class neighborhood known as Trastevere. As a tourist, you truly feel immersed in culture as you walk through the streets to get to the different sides of campus. To get to the right side of the Tiber River, where all of the popular tourist attractions can be found, you can cross a bridge called Ponte Sisto. Whenever I crossed this bridge I would make it my personal goal to get lost and have an adventure.

Housing: I lived on campus in the Gianicolo Residence Halls. Now, these residence halls were not your typical American one-room dorms which you share with one or two roommates. These residence halls are more like apartments. My dorm/apartment suite was fully furnished with an entry way, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen and a dining room/living room. I shared this temporary home with four other girls -- three in one room and two in another. There was plenty of room to put away your clothes and store any other personal belongings. These Residence Halls are less than a five minute walk from the Guarini Campus and about ten minutes from the Tiber Campus. The location was fabulous in terms of getting to class.

“Studying abroad really pushed me to be independent and self-sufficient.”

Mei Li representing UW on top of Gianicolo Hill in Rome.