Program: John Cabot University, Summer

Tricia’s Majors: Journalism, Strategic Communication

Academic Life: At John Cabot University, I took two classes: Rome and the Modern City, and Media in the Mediterranean. Both classes consisted of about 15 other students, coming from around the world including Egypt, Iraq, Japan, Russia and America. Both professors had previously taught in the U.S., so they made the transition to learning in a foreign country a lot easier. My classes at John Cabot helped me to be a more conscious media consumer as well as a more conscious world citizen.

Advice for Someone Considering Rome: 100 percent, DO IT! The beauty, the culture, the people and the food are completely worth it. Even if you just go for the pizza initially, you will discover so much about the world outside of America, and this knowledge will help you exponentially in your relationships at home, your education and even your career in the future.

Italy as a Second Home: There was a little shop next door to our residence hall that I would pick up some groceries and essentials from. The man who ran the shop didn’t speak a word of English and I knew very little Italian. Throughout my short time in Rome I developed a relationship with him. Although we didn’t speak the same language, we were able to joke with each other and communicate without understanding each other’s words, but rather the message. I truly consider Rome a second home and most importantly, I learned that language shouldn’t be a barrier for human interaction. There are many other ways to communicate with someone.

“It was honestly one of the most humbling experiences in my life, to see how people live outside of what Americans deem as normal.”