AMMAN, JORDAN

EMILY ESSEX

Program: CIEE Language and Culture in Amman, Spring

Emily’s Majors: International Studies, Legal Studies

Academic Life: While in Jordan I had the opportunity to take many interesting classes. Other than two Arabic language classes, I took an international relations and diplomacy course. My professor was a Jordanian diplomat and had a lot of experience to share with us. I also took a class on the relationship with America and the Arabs, taught by an American woman now living in Jordan. All my classes were taken with other students from the CIEE program. Similar to class here, Arabic classes were completely in Arabic, something that helped many students improve their language skills. I enjoyed engaging in meaningful conversations with my fellow students and knowledgeable professors.

Emily’s Most Memorable Experience: The most memorable experience was our visit to Wadi Rum. We rode both camels and 4x4s through the desert. This was one of the most beautiful sights I’ve seen. On the ride we got to climb some dunes, take in the scenery, and of course run down the dunes hopefully without falling. We stayed in tents in a Bedouin camp. The food was delicious, and there was a lot of it. It was a wonderful experience drinking tea and talking around the fire under the stars.

Housing: During my first study abroad experience (Summer 2014), I lived with a host family in the Jabal Weibdeh neighborhood. This neighborhood is artsy and has a lot of great study spots. I had a great experience with my family since they treated me as their own child and made an effort to spend a lot of time with me. Also, my host mom’s cooking was amazing. I studied abroad again and lived in an apartment in the Jabal Amman neighborhood. It was nice to have independence and be near other students. This was close to Rainbow Street, which was an area with many shops that foreigners frequented.

Emily’s Tips For Students Studying in Amman: I know everyone says this, but keep an open mind. Things are different abroad than they are in the US and it is very important to remember that. Things are not always bad, just different. Your expectations also might be different than reality. Don’t be surprised when you find this out. Oh, and definitely go to Hashem’s.

“I am so much more patient with people and with hard situations now.”