Program: CIEE Comparative Public Health Systems, Summer

Celina’s Major: Pre-Nursing

Academic Life: My classes in both Amsterdam and London were coordinated through CIEE. The classes were unique in that I was taught by a Dutch general practitioner and a British national working for the NHS. Some of our classes were taught by guest lecturers who were medical professionals or worked for the healthcare system or for the government in the branch of health. A third of our classes were dedicated to excursions. I was able to visit several hospitals and clinics, an operating theatre, and museums. All of these factors help us gain a greater, in-depth knowledge and appreciation of both healthcare systems and cultures. The classes comprised of all American students from various campuses across the U.S. The group was large and fostered an open and interactive experience.

Most Memorable Moment: On a train ride I met a Dutch couple who took interest in my program. It felt so good to be able to talk with them about their healthcare system, the GGD and all of their current and past policies.

Study Abroad and Future Aspirations: My experience has provided me with focus and motivation, creating a heightened sense of maturity, independence, self-directness and responsibility, all character traits that are essential to my career aspiration of becoming a nurse.

Advice for Someone Considering Studying Abroad: It is never too early or late in your college career to study abroad. As a freshman, I had a great time abroad and it has left me wanting more. There is a program and country for everyone and in the end, you’ll gain a knowledge of the work and will have immersed yourself into several cultures.

“The world is yours, so take advantage of it.”