Program: Massey University Exchange, Spring

Anna's Major: International Studies

Academic Life: I took a really interesting mixture of classes at Massey. One of my favorite classes was my Maori language course. Maori is an Eastern Polynesian language spoken by the Maori people, the indigenous population of New Zealand. Our professor was always taking out his guitar for some impromptu Maori songs, and he always threw in some cultural knowledge too so that we could get a better understanding of the native people. As someone who had next to no experience with New Zealand before studying there, it was an enlightening and novel experience to learn about what goes into being both a Kiwi and Maori. I ended up getting an incredible amount of perspective on really different walks of life, which only made the classes that much better!

Advice For Someone Considering New Zealand: Prepare to be surprised! No matter what you see in pictures or film, nothing except actually experiencing the incredible landscape of New Zealand can come close to how mind-blowing it really is. Once you think you’ve seen it all, be prepared for something new around the corner!

How Study Abroad Sets Me Apart: Going abroad on my own gave me a new sense of maturity and self-sufficiency that I feel like I could only get by studying in a different country. It also gave me new perspective and made me more culturally aware and open. I feel very confident that these factors are not only unique to study abroad students, but also are something that employers will notice and really appreciate as I approach graduation.

Tips For Students Studying Abroad: Flexibility is key when studying abroad. If it’s your first time going abroad, there will be some things that go wrong that force you to improvise. Just remember that just because something goes wrong doesn’t mean it goes badly! Some of my favorite experiences came from having to improvise when something didn’t go as planned. It’s all just part of the experience, and chances are you’ll be grateful for those moments when you look back on your time abroad.

“Everyone was so nice; it made me feel like I was in the right place right away.”