Danielle’s Majors: Biology, Latin American, Caribbean & Iberian Studies

Program: Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru Exchange, Fall

Academic Life: The classroom experience was very different from what I’ve experienced at UW-Madison. Besides the classes being taught completely in Spanish, the average number of credits a student takes a semester is 18-20. Luckily, I only needed to satisfy the credit requirement at Madison, so I ended up taking four classes: “Cine” (Film), “Arqueologia andina” (Andean Archaeology), “El Peru en los tiempos modernos” (Peru in Modern Times), and “Comunicacion social” (Social Communication). I loved learning about Peruvian history and culture alongside fellow international students and Peruvian students. Although there are many differences between the classroom setting in Peru and in the United States, I’m extremely grateful that I was able to have that academic experience.

Study Abroad and Danielle’s Future Aspirations: I know it sounds cliche, but studying abroad in Peru really did give me a new perspective on life. I not only had the opportunity to improve my Spanish (which will be an incredibly useful skill in any career field), but I was also able to volunteer in a low income hospital with the organization “Kurame.” This study abroad experience introduced me to a new culture, helped me improve my Spanish, and provided me with a new perspective on healthcare in South America. All of these experiences will be extremely helpful while I strive to become a pediatrician.

“Make sure to find a program that will be a good fit for you, whether it be improving a foreign language, exploring a new culture, or participating in a specific academic program.”