Kailin’s Majors: Spanish, International Studies

Program: Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru Exchange, Spring

Academic Life: I took Peru en Tiempos Modernos, a lecture style class with around 60 students, mainly local. I also took Literatura y Cine, a smaller class with around 20 students, half international and half local students. It was more discussion based with a fair amount of reading. Lastly I took Linguistica Andina, a very challenging, incredibly detail oriented course with lots of memorization. It was a lecture style course with the main grading components being two exams.

Peru as a Second Home: It did by the end of the semester. I realized this when I was walking around Lima at one point during the last month I was there and I noticed that I finally had a good idea of how to get around the city by myself with the bus system and all the differences that had seemed so big to me at the beginning of the semester I didn’t really notice anymore. I especially noticed this during the last few weeks when I was preparing myself for going back to the US and I realized just how many friends I would miss seeing every day.

Study Abroad and Kailin’s Future Aspirations: Studying abroad helped me immensely with improving my Spanish language skills. My vocabulary, grammar, and confidence with speaking Spanish improved vastly from all the practice I got through living in Lima and my written skills improved from the classroom experience as well. Studying abroad also helped me get a better understanding of cultural differences which I think is valuable for any career you go into.

Tip for Students Considering Study Abroad: I would say that it’s very important to be flexible and to have patience. There will be problems or challenges that arise and it’s important to stay calm and trust that everything will work out eventually. You definitely can’t sweat the small stuff.

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