Paula’s Major: Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies

Program: Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru Exchange, Academic Year

Academic Life: The classroom experience was much different than here at UW Madison. The class size was small, about 5-30 students, which really encouraged in-depth discussion among professors and students. My first semester I took mostly classes with international students, which was fun but it wasn't what I wanted out of my experience. Thus, my second semester I took classes with only Peruvian students and it was exactly what I was looking for! Overall, adapting to a different educational system took some time, but offered me many new lenses to understand the world through.

Most Memorable Moments: Climbing up the tallest mountain in Peru, Huascarán, literally took my breath away. I am from Chicago so it’s safe to stay the closest I had ever been to a mountain was a skyscraper. Being surrounded by the Andes made me feel so tiny and humbled. I have never heard, seen, smelled, or felt anything like Huascarán and I know it will be a story to share with my grandchildren some day.

Study Abroad and Paula’s Future Aspirations: My Spanish fluency has sky-rocketed. I am now able to work in an all Spanish speaking environment as well as translate official documents. Using this skill will help me be more marketable for jobs in Spanish speaking countries.

“I learned that my future career goals are centered around community work and musical education.”