CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

STEPHANIE DOORNEK

Stephanie’s Major: Psychology, Criminal Justice certificate

Program: University of Cape Town, Spring

Academic Life: There were lectures three or four times a week, with an additional tutorial, which is just like the discussion section at UW. Multiple professors switched off teaching the classes. This way each professor could lecture on what they specialized in, rather than one professor try and cover everything. This made sense, but could be confusing at times when it seemed like they were jumping around a lot. I took classes with international students from all over the world, which included a high number of African international students, especially from Zimbabwe. It was very enlightening to hear some very different perspectives.

Housing: I lived in a beautiful, Victorian, ivy-covered house with four other international students—a girl from Massachusetts, a girl from France, and two guys from Germany. My house was in a residential neighborhood amongst some other international student housing and some family homes. We lived right in front of a house with five other international students who we became very close with. We would walk right into each other’s homes throughout the day, hang out on one of our patios, and have family dinners together. I really enjoyed living with students from all over the globe and learning about their cultures.

Advice to Someone Considering South Africa: Do it! Cape Town is the perfect mix of Europe and Africa. There are not too many places where you can hike a mountain and then jump in the ocean in the same day. The University of Cape Town is also a top-notch university. They are the highest ranked university on the continent and excel in research. UCT has a beautiful campus embedded into the slopes of Devil’s Peak. Don’t miss out on all that Cape Town has to offer!

Stephanie makes a new elephant friend.

“Cape Town is a diverse city with a very unique culture, and you can always find something exciting to do.”