

BADGERS BEYOND ABROAD

alumni interview series

Kate Thornborough

France

Life After Study Abroad

Shortly after I got back from my first study abroad program in Aix-en-Provence (spring 2012), I immediately started doing research for my next trek overseas. I picked the summer language program in Tours (summer 2013), and graduated in France. After graduating I had a brief stint as a Chemistry substitute teacher before I landed the job I currently have as a flight attendant with US Airways, soon to be American Airlines. I found the perfect job getting paid to travel and meeting new, interesting people.

Impact on Life, Goals & Career

Both of my study abroad programs allowed me to not only physically expand my boundaries, but also mentally - expanding my way of thinking to accommodate the new points of view I encountered. It also firmly implanted my sense of wanderlust, ensuring that no matter where the future found me, it would always be in a new location. I never knew what I wanted to be when I grew up (the only exception being when I was 7, and wanted to be Buffy the vampire slayer), and studying abroad and traveling made me realize that it didn't really matter what job or career I had, as long as it was one that allowed me to see the world.

Advice for Returning Students

To any students coming back from study abroad, I say don't stop adventuring. You don't need to go to Brazil or Italy or China to visit new places, meet new people, and have fantastic adventures - as long as you seek them out, they will find you. I've been all over the world, and now with my job I get to do it all over again, but one thing that has stuck with me is that the location doesn't really matter - I've had just as much fun in Boise, Idaho as I have in Honolulu or Madrid. Regardless of physical location, if you seek adventure, you will find it, be it in the form of new friends, new things to do or see or learn. You just gotta keep looking for it.



Kate at her job as a flight attendant.

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Interview from August 2014