

# BADGERS BEYOND ABROAD

alumni interview series

## Lindsay Carrera

Italy

### Life After Study Abroad

Since completing the BCSP Bologna, Italy program through IAP in fall 2012, I graduated with a double major in English Literature and Italian. I worked at various non-profit organizations and volunteered through UW-Madison, while bartending for money! I am now a Peace Corps Volunteer working in the Education sector of Uganda, and am working on a 'girlchild' (Ugandan term) empowerment secondary project while also educating my staff and community about gender equity and its role in development, specifically gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS. I am also starting a small library at my school through Books for Africa as part of USAID's Literacy Project.

### Impact on Life, Goals & Career

Wow. BCSP Bologna was one of the best experiences of my life. I was glad I chose a full immersion program, because those international friends I've made are life-long ones; some are even coming to visit me here in Uganda almost 4 years later. I also fell in love with another culture and gained the ability to start seeing my own from a critical viewpoint. It was one of the most educational experiences because I started thinking about globalization, international careers, and most importantly cultural tolerance. I knew I wanted to go abroad not only to see the world of international development and aid, but I also saw it as a personal educational experience. It also helped my confidence. Learning and speaking a foreign language in a public setting always made me nervous, and it changed my public speaking skills entirely. Leaving the country for an extended period of time used to intimidate me as well, but I had a quarter life crisis and realized I wanted to see and understand as much as I could. Study abroad flew by, and I realized I could do a lot more than I thought.

### Advice for Returning Students

My advice for other students returning from abroad is to keep learning and get out there! Studying abroad was the best thing I did in college, and it opened my eyes up to so many different kinds of people and traditions that I wanted to understand. Use your knowledge to promote understanding and education to make the world a better place!

Interview from September 2014



Lindsay at Peace Corps youth leadership camp with the campers and counselor from her community.

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**study  
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