Program: University of Sydney Exchange, Spring

Melanie’s Majors: Human Development and Family Studies; Social Welfare

Academic Life: Like Madison, the University of Sydney is a big university and lectures were often large. Each lecture was accompanied by a small group tutorial, or discussion section, giving students the time they needed to ask questions and participate in academic conversations.

Most Memorable Moments: Meeting new people with different backgrounds, cultures, and experiences. Going abroad and not knowing anyone is taking a huge risk, but it is a risk that everyone is taking together. Everyone is looking for a friend, a similar connection, or a striking conversation.

Considering Sydney: Not only is the school academically challenging and beautiful, but it is in the center of one of the most unique places in the world. Australia is a place where people value time with their families, leaving work and its stressors at the office. Sydney is an outstanding place to get an education academically and culturally.

Impact of Study Abroad: Study abroad has changed some of my core values in life. I have learned that being educated on other cultures, experiencing personal interactions, and leaving my comfort zone through volunteer work and travel, are important.

Interning Abroad: I had an internship with UnitingWorld, an international non-profit agency that works to end poverty through bettering health, education, women and family empowerment, and social justice. Interning abroad will give you the opportunity to learn about the work environment in a new country. You will be tested through adaptation and get an education on the workplace that you cannot get in your own country, as it will have different customs and values.

“You will be forced to learn through experiences, and truly valuable ones at that.”