

# RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

ALLISON STRECKENBACH

**Program:** UW Global Gateway, Summer

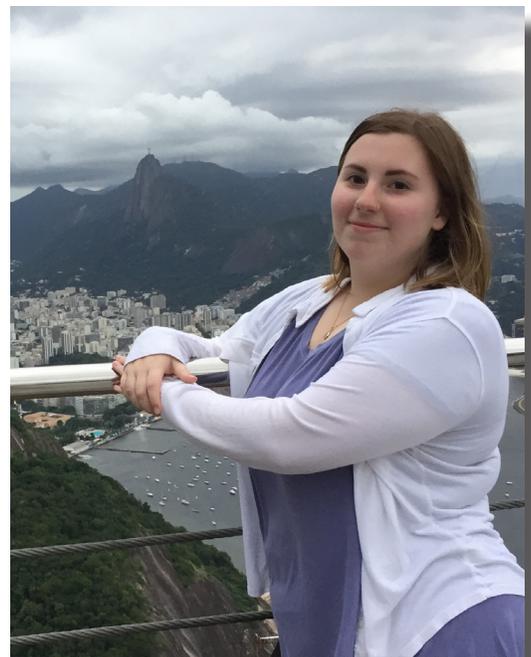
**Allison's Majors:** International Studies; Geography

**Academic Life:** As a group of 15 UW students, we had our two classes at the CIEE office. One class was taught by the professor who came with us from Madison, and the other was taught by a local professor from Rio. The classroom setting was small but comfortable and allowed all of us to get to know both professors and the CIEE staff very well. The classes were very interesting and helped us navigate our surroundings and understand the history and current climate of our home for the month.

**Advice for Someone Considering this Program:** Global Gateway is an amazing stepping-stone for someone considering studying abroad for a semester or year but is a bit nervous. This program is only one month long, and gives you the comfort and security (and fun!) of going with 14 other UW students and a professor. In addition, it helps you to get to know a country and culture that you may have never gotten the chance to otherwise.

**Benefits of Study Abroad:** I feel like I've grown more confident in myself. Through the classes, making my way through an unfamiliar environment, learning how a different society functions, and living somewhere that I cannot effectively speak the language all taught me to be more confident, and that I can #1 survive and #2 figure things out by being more flexible and open. It has also inspired me to continue to explore the world with a growing desire to learn more about different regions and people and ways of life. It also made me completely positive that I chose the right path in my degree.

**Tips for Future Students:** You absolutely CANNOT stay within your comfort zone. It is essential to expand yourself and see what happens. If you stay within your box, you'll greatly miss out. Try that street food, climb that mountain, take that extra step. You won't be sorry. Just be smart about it at the same time.



Allison from the top of Sugar Loaf mountain, one of the best views of Rio.

**“It really is a once in a lifetime opportunity.”**

