

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

KELSEY HARKER

Program: UW Spanish Language in Costa Rica, Winter

Kelsey's Majors: Human Development and Family Studies; Spanish

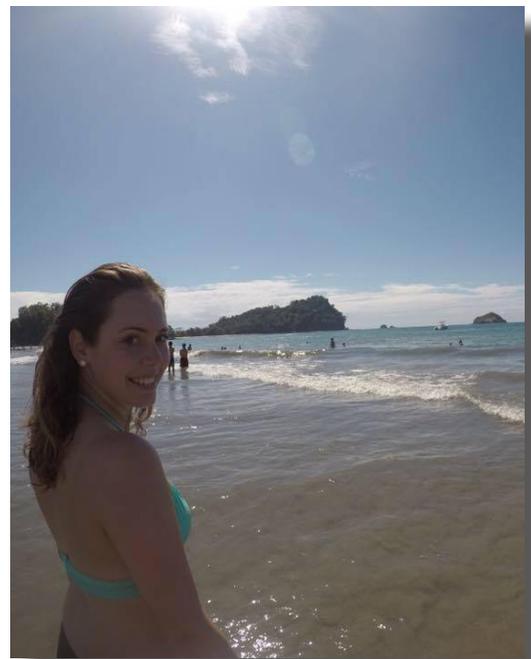
Academic Life: I took advanced conversation hoping to have a class solely focused on speaking and observing the culture. We did just that! We talked about anything that we wanted as long as it was Spanish. Of course we did have some readings and a few homework assignments but it was all meant to give you practice speaking aloud. Every week we had a presentation. Our class was 6 students total. It was fun to have personalized attention on our speaking abilities yet have enough people that conversations were still fun! I would highly recommend this to anyone who cannot go abroad for a whole semester.

Benefits of Study Abroad: The ability to think in Spanish. This sounds weird, but most of the time people are translating in their head what they are reading or hearing. Once you go abroad, something just clicks and it becomes easier!

Different Times: Costa Rica runs on "tico" time - just a little later than usual, and it was okay because "pura vida." Don't let the little things stress you out and enjoy life.

Future Career Aspirations: I plan to work in community education and outreach. Being able to work with the Spanish-speaking population is a very large part of it. Studying abroad gave me the confidence I needed in my speaking skills to be able to communicate with others.

Tips for Future Students: Be open to creating conversation with your host family! The host families get used to students coming and going so make it a memorable experience for both you and them and you never know what kind of relationship you could build.



Kelsey at the Pacific Ocean on the beach at Manuel Antonio.

“Study abroad provided a cultural experience outside my own.”

