

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

LINDSEY BLIEFERNICHT

Lindsey's Majors: International Studies, Communication Arts

Program: UW Spanish Language in Costa Rica, Winter

Academic Life: I took Spanish 224 with three other students from Madison. There was a lot of individual attention and we used Spanish the entire 4 hours of class. We spent most of the class reading and analyzing stories, and every week there was an in class essay. Our final was a 15 minute presentation completely in Spanish. I really enjoyed how our teacher would talk about specific issues in the literature we would read and how the issue applies to Costa Rican society today. It was a great class!

Most Memorable Moments: My most memorable experience was taking a trip to Manuel Antonio, one of the most famous beaches in Costa Rica, for New Years Eve. My friends and I counted down the last seconds of 2014 with Costa Rican locals who lit floating lanterns and fireworks. I couldn't imagine a more beautiful place to spend the evening!

How Study Abroad Changed Lindsey: The Costa Ricans have charming little phrases like "Pura Vida" ("Pure Life") and "Tranquilo!" ("Relax, calm down!"). I often get caught up in the stresses of life, and when in Costa Rica, there were certain occasions that seemed frustrating or confusing in the moment, and my host mom would often use these phrases to let me know that all is well. Life goes on. That's one of my favorite take aways from Costa Rica.



Lindsey in Poas Volcano National Park just north of San Jose.

“I’ve noticed already in my Spanish classes that I have a better time understanding my professors thanks to my in-depth experience in Costa Rica.”

