

ZAGREB, CROATIA

DANA RADOJEVIC

Dana's Majors: Political Science, International Studies, Journalism

Program: Worldwide Internship Program, Summer

Academic Life: I was enrolled in an online class with about 15 other UW-Madison students who were also interning in foreign countries. Our classwork primarily focused on the cross-cultural experiences that we were all experiencing in our workplaces abroad. From this class, I learned a lot about the challenges of working in a different country, and I was also able to develop a strong relationship with my classmates.

Dana's Internship: I worked in the Political/Economic section of the U.S. Embassy in Zagreb. Every day, I reported on Croatia's current political and economic developments for Washington D.C. Reporting consisted of short-term (one day to one week) and long-term (two to three months) assignments. I would report information that I obtained either through the local press or through meetings with Croatian officials. As a Political Science, International Studies, and Journalism triple major, this internship advanced my academic interests in many ways.

On Cultural Differences: One significant cultural difference between Croatia and the US is the emphasis on work. As one of the locally-employed staff told me at Embassy Zagreb, "Americans live to work. We work to live." I think this was evident in the importance that Croatians placed on their "annual holidays" - a two to three week period in late July and early August during which almost all Croatians take off from work to go on vacation (usually to the Adriatic coast). Zagreb transitioned from a hustling and bustling city to a ghost town in a mere week!

“Being abroad not only teaches you about different cultures, it also teaches you about your own because you have the opportunity to then see from an outsider's perspective.”



Dana at the top of one of the highest waterfalls in Plitvice Lakes National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

