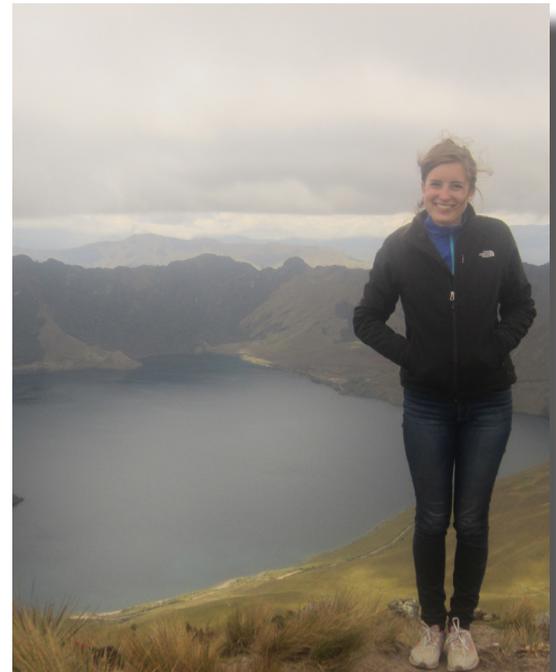# OTAVALO, ECUADOR
JENNY OSTROWSKI

Jenny's Major: International Studies with Honors in the Liberal Arts

Program: International Internship Program, Summer

Academic Life: Through the Worldwide Internship program, I enrolled in an online course that allowed me to earn academic credit while completing an internship abroad. The course included 15 other UW students who were also completing internships abroad. Our coursework examined culture in the workplace and allowed us to share cross cultural experiences from our personal internship placements. Both through my own internship and through learning about the internships of my classmates, I gained many insights about the unique challenges and rewards of working abroad.

Jenny's Internship: I interned with the Tandana Foundation, a small NGO that works mainly in the health and education sectors. Along with three other interns, I helped develop and implement a five week summer school program for middle school and high school age students from rural communities near Otavalo, Ecuador. Each day, I taught an English class and two elective classes, ranging from ecology to German. On Fridays, we planned field trips for the students, including a boat ride on Lake Cuicocha and a trip to see pre-Combian ruins in Cochasqui.

Advice for Someone Considering an Internship Abroad: I think that an internship abroad offers an incredible opportunity to gain experience working in a cross-cultural setting. The skills I gained were unique in that they went beyond regular coursework and included a strong experiential component, helping me to develop skills such as cross-cultural communication, problem solving, and flexibility. Additionally, I found interning abroad to be very rewarding on a personal level, as I formed close ties with my students, coworkers, and the community where I worked.

Jenny standing in front of Lake Mojanda at the top of Fuya Fuya.

“We had a lot of fun learning everything from German Christmas carols to how to write our names in Japanese.”

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