

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE

NICOLE OTT

Program: Academic Program in Aix-en-Provence, Year

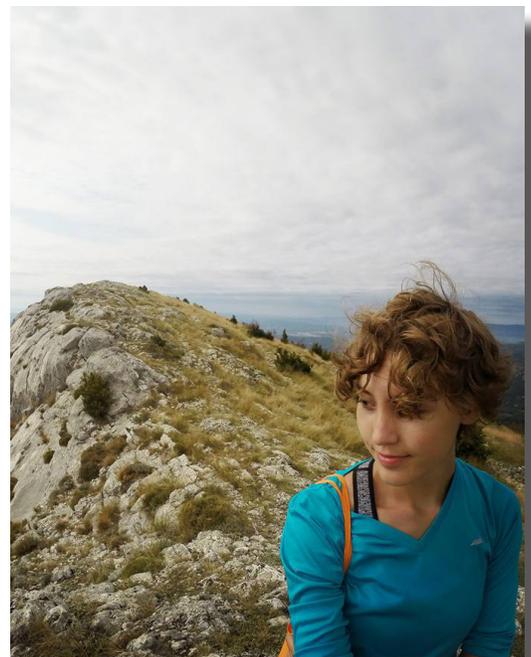
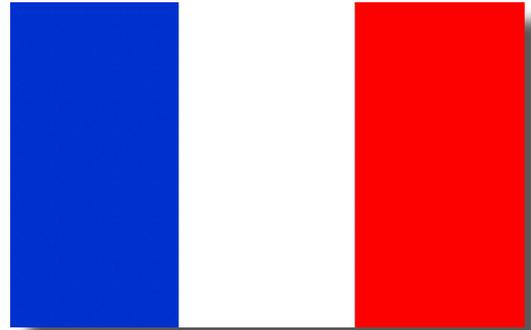
Nicole's Major: French

Academic Life: The academic experience in Aix was fully immersive. I studied at the Fac, or Faculte des Arts et Lettres, with French students in real French classrooms. I was treated exactly the same as a regular French student. This was one of the main reasons for my growth in French throughout the year. I took classes such as modern French theater in literature, linguistics and history of the French language, and anthropology of Provence, the region I called home for ten months.

Housing: I lived with a lovely family on the outskirts of Aix. Veronique and Nina were my host mom and sister, and truly became my second family. The two helped me through homesickness, taught me dance moves, and debated politics. I learned to have real conversations about topics that really mattered, not just about where we'd traveled or how nice it was outside. My last morning with them was spent at the train station, eating croissants and marveling over how much my French had improved since my first day with them. Living with a host family was one of the best decisions I made during my time abroad.

Advantages: Studying abroad for an entire academic year is not something that many students choose to do. As an aspiring translator, I hope my drive to study in a foreign country for an entire year will set me apart from the rest of the crowd, showing that I am willing to take risks and dive head first into the unknown.

Advice: Studying abroad will force you to go outside your comfort zone, and make you a stronger and more independent person as a result. You'll learn the intricacies of the French language, from how to order a crepe like a local, to conversing with French families around the dinner table. There's no other place in the world more beautiful than southern France, and the memories you'll make here will stick with you forever.



Nicole at the top of Mont Sainte Victoire, just outside of Aix.

“Leaving will force you to keep one part of your heart in each of your homes.”

