

# PARIS, FRANCE

AMAYA BRUCE-ALLINGTON

**Program:** UW in Paris, Spring

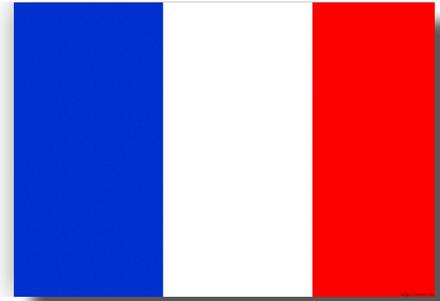
**Amaya's Major:** Social Work

**Academic Life:** I had four classes taught in French and one in English. There were grammar, conversation, literature, social justice, history and many other classes to choose from. Each class incorporated Paris culture and history, providing a well-rounded academic experience. Classes had a max of 20 students - a much smaller experience from the large class sizes at Madison. It created a nice little community within the program.

**Acquiring Language Skills:** The experience of living in a new culture where the language is not my mother tongue has forced me to grow and view the world in a new lens. The language barrier was an eye-opening experience where I was thrown out of my comfort zone with a language I could not fully understand. My language skills grew along with my adaptations to new environments.

**Making Adjustments:** I grew up in a small town of five thousand, and Madison was a large city to me when I first arrived at UW. Paris was enormous, but I quickly found my way. I learned I can live in a large city of two million. It does take some adjusting and getting lost a couple of times, but I found I can manage it. When I started figuring out the metro and the city by foot, it started to become more familiar and a home to me.

**Looking Toward the Future:** I hope to continue the language skills I built while abroad, which is very helpful in any career. I hope to get into social work and with this involves being respectful to and learning about different cultures. Participating in another culture has opened my mind and created a pathway for me to be aware and learn about other cultures and family dynamics.



Amaya (L) with friends at the Eiffel Tower.

**“When the taxi drove into the city, it was nothing I had ever seen before and I thought, this is what I want.”**

