

FLORENCE, ITALY

COURTNEY KLEMME

Program: UW in Florence, Spring

Courtney's Major: Communication Sciences & Disorders

Academic Life: During my time in Florence, I took five classes; Renaissance Art and Architecture, Food and Culture, Cross Cultural Psychology, Italian 101, and Tourism Studies. The small class sizes allowed for a lot of interaction and in-depth discussion. Even though my major is Communication Sciences and Disorders and none of the classes I took were directly related, I believe my academic experience abroad gave me the tools to think in a broader sense when it comes to all situations. This ability to understand other perspectives on life is helpful no matter what your future career will be.

Living in Florence: I lived just steps away from some of the most mesmerizing places in Florence. Sharing my two bedroom apartment with three other girls on my program was a great experience. Our apartment was within walking distance of everything we needed in Florence. Florence did become a second home to me. I realized this when I was walking alone to the supermarket down my street. I knew exactly what I was going to get, where it was in the store, and how the check out procedure would go. This was a huge difference from my first days in Florence when I was so unfamiliar with the language, people, culture, and expectations of how to go about grocery shopping. This feeling of familiarity with the Italian culture in everyday activities really made me feel as if I belonged.

Most Memorable Moments: My most memorable experiences abroad were the small snippets of time I spent with local Italians. At the beginning of the semester, my only contact with Italians was with my professors. However, as the semester carried on, I was able to interview a young Italian woman for my psychology class, chat with locals at cafes, and became a "regular" at many trattorias. These experiences are what really opened my eyes to realize that, in this big world, there are so many individual cultures that stray away from what I know and am used to.



Courtney (R) with two of her classmates in Venice, Italy.

"I believe exploring on your own, without a guide, is when you will find yourself most at home in a foreign country."

