Program: UW Classics in Italy, Summer

Danielle's Major: English Literature

Academic Life: There wasn't a traditional classroom setting in this program. “Classes” were guided tours of ancient ruins and other important sites in and around Rome. These sites were important for understanding ancient civilization. Other students were students from UW taking the class for 3 credits in classics. Our Professor was Laura McClure. We also learned a lot from the tour guides at the sites we visited.

Living in Italy: We spent two weeks in Rome and one week in Sorrento. Rome is a beautiful city, lots of lights and so close to important ancient ruins. The central location was great because we were right next to a train station and just as close to a supermarket. However, Rome is a big city! Being someone who grew up in a small town with only about 3000 people makes living in a big city not so great for me. While staying in Sorrento [much smaller], the view off the balcony included mountains and you could hear the wind whistling through them at night.

New Ventures: It was the first time being away from home for three weeks, first time living with someone other than family, first time flying, first time being abroad, and even first time budgeting my own meals and finances. With so many firsts I find that I am more knowledgeable about how to do things and about who I am as an individual.

Memorable Moment: Climbing up Mount Vesuvius was one of the most memorable experiences from my time abroad. We took a bus most of the way to the top, and then we hiked up a steep-sloped trail the rest of the way. It was a hard climb, but when we reached the top we were higher than the clouds; it was beautiful.

“With this program, I have done so many things I have never done before.”