ROME, ITALY

DOUGLAS SMART

Program: John Cabot University, Spring

Douglas’ Major: Finance

Academic Life: The academic and classroom experience at John Cabot University was fantastic. Unlike UW-Madison, the class sizes are significantly smaller and allow for a more discussion based and engaging experience. The classes are composed of a mix between both international and study abroad students, so it enables you to gain different perspectives on key issues and better shape your own personal opinions.

Living in Rome: I lived in an area of Rome called Trastevere. It was a great area to call home base, and was home to an abundance of young people, small businesses, and plenty of activity. Known for 25 hours of fun in a 24 hour day, Trastevere truly is a fantastic place to be on any night of the week. Situated on a quiet street, the student housing allows you to escape from the noise when you need to. The endless options for cafes, restaurants, and shops make for an incredible experience. Lastly, because it is close to, but not in the heart of the city, it is easy to escape from the suffocating tourist traffic.

Skills Gained: Studying abroad allows you to look at key domestic and international issues through different lenses - for example, education and health care. Additionally, you become a better communicator and person for being able to collaborate and work with people from other countries.

Tips for Future Students: Most importantly, try and learn basic phrases and social cues right away. It will help establish a positive relationship with people you interact with on a weekly basis, and also help you appreciate the culture.

“Embrace your host country culture as soon as possible.”