Valeria’s Major: Psychology

Academic Life: This program was field based. We were in a classroom primarily for our Arabic classes along with some lectures for our other classes, but mainly we were receiving on site lectures from UN, NGO and government officials. I took Arabic; Refugees and Displaced Populations in the Context of Jordan; Refugee Health and Humanitarian Action; Research Methods and Ethics; and completed an Independent Study Project. All students were from American universities. SIT staff, all of whom were Jordanian, taught classes.

Advice for Someone Considering SIT Jordan: Really dissect and analyze why you want to study in the Middle East, or why you want to interact with refugees. There were several times when ethics had to be discussed with our class. This program is not for those hoping to advance a lot in Arabic as you’re often surrounded with English speakers and it’s not very immersive. If you’re considering a career in humanitarian aid or with migrants or global health, I recommend it.

Future Aspirations: This program directly related to my aspirations of working with migrants since the program was about refugees.

Culture Shock: I experienced culture shock in a different way. There was a 10-day excursion to Switzerland, and to me, being back in a Western country again was a culture shock. I realized I liked the comforts of Jordan.

Benefits of Study Abroad: I now consider myself a global citizen. This experience has made allowed me to see my role in not only my immediate community, but also in an ever-globalizing society. There are certain affirmations, responsibilities, and expectations I now have because of this.