Program: University of Cape Town Exchange, Spring

Austin’s Majors: Zoology and Environmental Studies

Academic Life: I took three classes while studying abroad at UCT: Introduction to Sociology, Life in the Sea, and Global Change Ecology. My classes involved some rigorous coursework and independent learning with rotating professors for every class. Luckily, I had some of the same professors making it easier to stay connected and become involved. First year courses are bigger and have a variety of students, both local and international. The classes put learning in a different context to better understand the concepts. Overall, the classes helped me look at learning in another light and made it easy to meet new people.

Advice for Someone Considering This Program: Cape Town, and South Africa in general, have such charm that it’s unlike anywhere I’ve been before. UCT can be a little intimidating at first, but it just takes some time in getting to understand the system in order to make the best of it. Between the campus and the city, there is so much to do that you’ll never get bored. The amount of cultural, historical, and natural attractions keep you wanting more.

Study Abroad and Future Aspirations: Studying abroad in South Africa gave me the opportunity to figure out other ways to think or solve problems, as well as experience a different kind of environment I’ve never experienced before. Talking and making connections is a great way to network and build relationships. Specifically, one of the TAs in my class needed help for her Master’s project so I volunteered for a week to help conduct research on flamingo feeding behaviors. Experience is everything and having a well rounded global outlook can mean a lot to employers and yourself.

“Austin and fellow Badgers enjoying the city lights on Signal Hill.

“Studying abroad is easily one of the most positive decisions I have ever made.”