Program: University of Cape Town Exchange, Spring

Hannah’s Majors: Life Science Communications & Environmental Studies

Academic Life: I took environmental science, oceanography, and anthropology courses abroad. The classes were about the same size as lectures I’ve attended at UW. The two science courses were upper level and consisted of students attending the University of Cape Town for four years—most of whom were native South Africans. The anthropology course, Southern Hunters and Herders, was made up of study abroad students from the US and Canada. All three classes were taught by professors, but the discussion sections (called “tutorials”) were conducted by graduate students.

Housing: I lived in a suburb named Rosebank. The university was in Rondebosch, which was less than a 10 minute walk away. We were located on Upper Alma Road, right off of the main road and adjacent from a park. Having a church across the street, police stations along main road, and a security guard serving the house next to us made the experience feel a lot safer than some of the more urban. My house slept nine students and had a large kitchen area.

Hannah’s Most Memorable Experience: My most memorable experience abroad was the time I spent volunteering in the Manenberg Township. I worked with third and fourth grade students learning English and math. Every Friday after lessons, we would play group games and sports outside. I hadn’t intended to become very close with the children in my class, because I knew I was only going to be with them for four months, but four of them confided in me in a way I had never expected. They opened up to me about their aspirations, their fears of childhood violence in the township and their own world views. They also waited for me to open up about my own experiences. After truly getting to know them and their families, they will forever be a part of me and my experience abroad.

“The students I taught changed the way I thought about the world.”