

RETURNEE OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER 2018



ABOUT LOGAN PETKOSEK

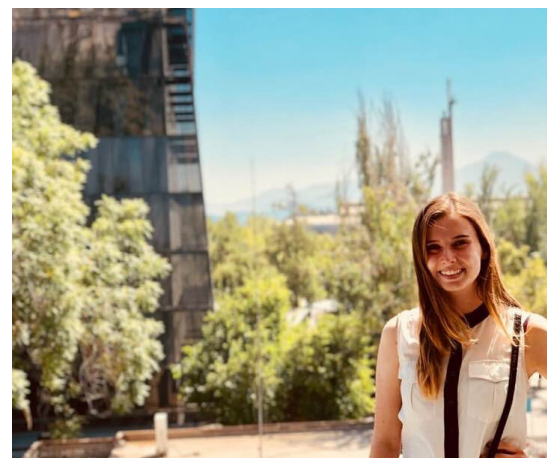
Program: WUSTL in Chile Program:
Santiago, Chile

Duration: Spring 2018

Major: Foreign Affairs & Economics

MOST INTERESTING CLASS & WHY?

Through my program, I was able to take classes with Chilean students at a university in Santiago. I took classes that I could use as major or minor credit which included two politics classes, and three Latin American Culture courses. The most interesting class I took was definitely my Comparative Constitutions course. Online it was listed as a 50 person lecture class so I was very surprised when I walked into class the first day and there were only 5 people in the class. I was a little nervous about taking essentially a seminar in Spanish, but I am so glad I took this class. This was my most interesting class because it was a subject matter I had never learned about so it was really cool getting to learn about this type of politics in Latin America, which is sometimes referred to as "the land of constitutions" because of their frequent constitutional changes/ replacement. I also really liked being able to get to know my professor and classmates. The final for this class was an extensive research paper, which was challenging yet very rewarding to complete in Spanish!



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HOW WAS EDUCATION ABROAD DIFFERENT THAN ANTICIPATED?

I think the biggest difference for me was the social structure at the university. The university did not have on-grounds housing so most students lived at home and commuted to school or rented an apartment somewhere nearby. It didn't have the same residential feel UVA does. I tried not to have too many preconceived notions about my experience abroad because I really wanted to keep an open mind!



NUMBER ONE WAY THE EXPERIENCE CONTRIBUTED TO YOUR GROWTH

The number one way my study abroad experience contributed to my growth was I feel much more independent now. Being able to plan a trip start to finish around Chile and to other countries allowed me to grow my confidence and realize "Oh wow, it's all coming together, I can actually do this!"

FAVORITE LOCAL HANGOUT & WHY?

Without a doubt, Café Cortaderas. This was a small coffee shop a block away from my host family's house. I would go to this coffee shop at least twice a week and order the same thing (hot chocolate with a "medialuna" every time! I went so often that I was greeted by the people that worked there with hugs and I wasn't asked what I was ordering, they already knew! Though I switched up my study spots, I did the vast majority of my work here. The next time I go to Chile, this will be one of my first stops!

SANTIAGO IN 3 WORDS

Vibrant

Unique

Beautiful

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MOST INTERESTING/DELICIOUS CUISINE TRIED

Though this is not a uniquely Chilean food, empanadas were my favorite thing to eat while in Chile. Unlike empanadas from other Latin American countries, the Chilean empanadas are massive! I specifically remember while running the Santiago Half Marathon, the only thing running through my mind was how good that empanada was going to taste once I got done running!

MOST MEANINGFUL INTERACTION WITH A LOCAL

I took a tennis class while I was abroad so I could meet more locals on a more personal level. I think my most meaningful interaction was with a particular friend I made in the class. He happened to live down the road from my host family's house and would show me around different parts of Santiago. This past summer, he was visiting his sister in Washington, DC for the first time so I got to show him around the city! It was awesome to get to show the other around one another's city.

ANYTHING ELSE TO ADD?

There is a lot of logistical work to do before heading abroad, but I loved my experience and got to see parts of the world I had never seen before. I have been dreaming about studying abroad since high school so every once and awhile while I was abroad I'd have to pinch myself and remind myself "this is what you have wanted to do for so long, you're living it!" I definitely miss the adventure and am so glad I was able to have this awesome experience.

