

RETURNEE OF THE MONTH

APRIL 2019



ABOUT CHANTIONNA WILLIS

Program: UVA Architecture: Barcelona

Duration: Fall 2018

Major: Architecture

MOST INTERESTING CLASS & WHY?

My most interesting class was ARH (GAUDI) 5613, it is a history of architecture class focused on Antoni Gaudi's Legacy. While learning about the works of a famous architect we were able to visit each of the buildings that we discussed, which allows one to really experience the space and have a better understanding of its composition.

My Architecture Research Studio was also an interesting class, because as an architecture student, having the opportunity to physically visit and conduct research on the chosen site within the city is extremely beneficial in conceptualizing the type of project to be produced.



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HOW WAS EDUCATION ABROAD DIFFERENT THAN ANTICIPATED?

The class structure when studying abroad was a little different than I expected due to the differences in the campus layout. I wasn't able to immerse myself into the student life as easily as I imagined, however I was able to form stronger relationships with the other students in the program, as all of our classes were together. When adjusting to the city at large, some of the steps were learning the traditional routines and cultural practices of the locals and trying to overcome the language barrier (it is always a good idea to know a little of the language of the country you are visiting). Lastly, I was initially nervous about transportation within a big city, by bus and train, but I learned the routes much faster than expected which made traveling throughout the city seamless and more enjoyable.

NUMBER ONE WAY THE EXPERIENCE CONTRIBUTED TO YOUR GROWTH

Studying abroad has heightened my awareness of different cultural practices and customs. My experience abroad has encouraged me step further outside of my comfort zone in trying new activities and taking advantage of the opportunities that aren't always available in my home country. Experiencing other countries and different lifestyles helps you develop different social and cultural perspectives that allow you to have a better understanding of the people, their traditions, and the country as a whole.



BARCELONA IN 3 WORDS

Modern

Captivating

Vibrant

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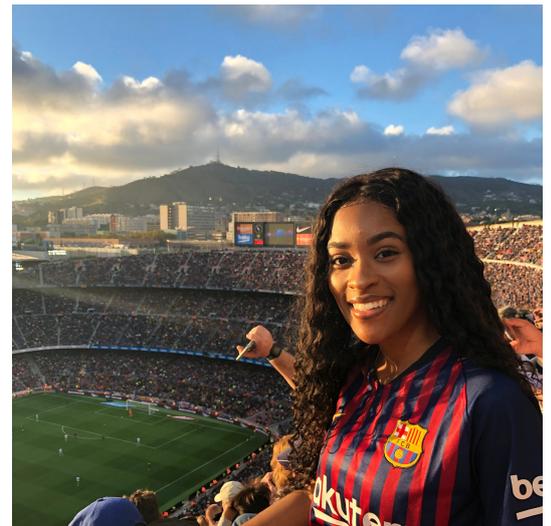
FAVORITE LOCAL HANGOUT, AND WHY?

The city of Barcelona has many historic landmarks and parks that are dispersed throughout the city. The Parc de la Ciutadella was one of my favorite places to visit. There is a zoo inside and there were always different activities happening at the park. It holds a central location in relation to the distinct atmospheres of Barcelona, all within walking distance from each other as well as from my residence. It neighbors the Gothic Quarter of Barcelona, while being connected to The Arc de Triomf and lastly it is also a link to the beaches of Barcelona.



MOST INTERESTING/DELICIOUS CUISINE TRIED

Tequeños de queso (Cheese Tequeños) for any cheese lovers! Two classic Spanish dishes that I enjoyed were Paellas and Spanish omelets.



MOST INTERESTING/MEANINGFUL INTERACTION WITH A LOCAL

I joined a yoga class, that allowed me to form long-lasting relationships with local residents in Barcelona. We knew that we would always see each other at least once a week, which fostered future plans and meetings outside of yoga sessions.

