



Meghan Staab's Semester Abroad

“Being Environmental Studies major, getting the chance to see one of the most plant and animal-diverse places in the world, in itself is exciting. I still am not sure what my plans or career objectives are, but I know that working with conserving some of the world’s most eccentric species is a goal. Australia has shown me how much there is in the world and how different every country’s environmental strategies are compared to the US. There is only so much a student can learn from a textbook and being able immerse yourself into a new county opens a new side of learning.”

“Looking back on my experience, I can’t think of anything I do differently.

Some of my greatest memories in life will come from my experience in Australia and I constantly think about how much fun I had doing it all-- even the endless hours of flying to and from. After returning home and sharing all of my stories and photos, I consistently have friends that wish they had taken advantage of the opportunity of studying abroad. There is no guarantee at another time in life will you have the resources and time to take four months to explore another country.”

More about Meghan:

- Major: Environmental Studies
- Program: Southern Cross University, Australia
- Fall 2017

Did you travel anywhere else while abroad?

“Traveling around Australia and staying in hostels were relatively cheap. I also could never be sure that I would visit again, so I had to see and do as much as my bank account would let me. Many of the other international students felt the same way and every weekend someone was going somewhere or planning a trip that I could join. I visited places up and down the coast ranging from a half hour drive to one of the most well-known beaches, Byron Bay, to a two hour plane ride to Melbourne or Cairns. I also had the chance to visit Sydney, the Twelve Apostles, Frazer Island, Brisbane, Gold Coast, the Great Barrier Reef, and many other day trips.”



Did you have any opportunities while abroad that would not have happened have you not gone abroad?

“Besides having the opportunity to visit many places that were on my bucket list, I was able to meet and view different perspective from people all over the world. While being immersed in the Australian culture, I learned much more outside of the classroom than attending classes. Even though the US and Australia are very similar, there was much to learn about the culture, language, and way of life down under.”



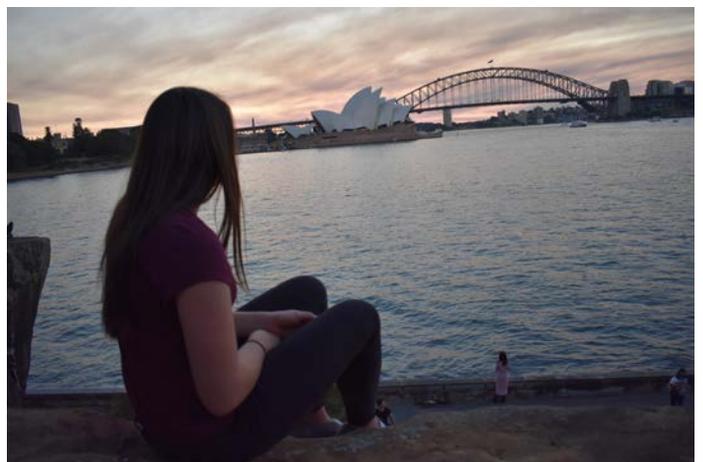
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More about Meghan's experience...



If you are thinking about studying abroad, Meghan says:

“Studying abroad will forever be one of my greatest accomplishments. Despite whatever fear or hesitation that may come from traveling to a new place independently for an extended period, go abroad anyway. I have made some incredible friends from all over the world in just four months and have done many things that some people can only dream of doing. Australia has been a place that I have wanted to travel to since I was a child, and the opportunities that come with studying abroad made those dreams happen.”



“The international office at Southern Cross University is similar to our Office of Study Abroad at W&J. The door is always open to talk, hangout, or just stopping by for coffee or tea. They could answer any questions or concerns that I had and got to know all of the international students by name.”