

Off-Campus Study Student Profiles

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Program Highlights

- Host Family experience
- One month visit to St. Louis to take a development course on the Senegalese River Valley
- Excursions to Langue de Barbarie National Park, Grand Mosque of Touba, Sokone, Ross Bethio
- Focused attention on students needs by the ACI Baobab Center
- Overall cultural experience

How did your experience fit into your academic major and your Wooster education?

Senegal is a former French colony and the national language is French; I was able to utilize my French while abroad and took courses that were all in French. Overall, I think that this program exposed me to the important aspects that will be necessary in continuing my two majors.

How were the courses you took on your program different from your Wooster courses?

The courses were very different, in terms of course work load and overall structure. The Senegalese system follows the French system: there were not as many papers and exams that helped to mark the progress that was being made by the students, but instead a final project or paper that determined the overall grade. Although I liked the courses and the content (development, culture, language courses), I was not prepared for the decrease in the amount of work and the sudden increase at the end of the semester, but that was part of the educational experience.

Why did you choose your program and location in particular?

I wanted a study abroad experience that incorporated both my French and IR majors, but one that was less traditional. I wanted to go to a place in the world where I knew it would be more difficult to go in 20 years.

What unique experience did you have while abroad that contributed to your education?

I was enrolled in a History of Islam class where we took a trip to a koranic school. There, I had the opportunity to talk with a gentleman who had been educated with the Koran. This experience was extremely eye-opening and I learned so much from the conversation and visit. I have been able to incorporate my experience in my junior IS.

Kalamazoo College, Dakar, Senegal

This language immersion program is affiliated with the Université Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD) in Dakar, the primary institution of higher education in Sénégal with more than 20,000 students, five facultés or colleges, and several specialized institutes. Participants study Wolof, History of Islam, and the current socio-economic situation in Senegal.

Visit the IPO or check out www.kzoo.edu/cip/senegalgueststudents.pdf for more information!