

Off-Campus Study Student Profiles

Caitlin Fetters

Major: Biology

SIT Tanzania: Zanzibar (Coastal Ecology)



Program Highlights:

- One of my favorite highlights of my experience was staying with four different homestay families. The families that I stayed with were very welcoming and it was a great opportunity to learn more about the Swahili culture and Muslim customs.
- My program had the opportunity to snorkel with whale sharks and wild dolphins.

Why did you choose this program?

I chose to study abroad in Africa because I wanted to experience a different culture. A good friend suggested SIT to me based on their experiential learning format and the opportunity to complete an Independent Study Project. I specifically chose the Tanzania: Zanzibar--Coastal Ecology program because of my deep interest in ecology and the inability to study marine science at Wooster.

What courses did you take?

There were four courses available through my program: Introduction to Swahili, Coastal Ecology Seminar, Environmental Field Study Seminar, and an Independent Study Project. I thoroughly enjoyed all of my classes. It was a priceless experience to learn a new language where you have the ability to practice it daily and to learn about environmental issues and see the effects of them through personal experience.

How did you work this program into your college career?

Being a Biology major, my experience fit well into my studies. It was a great opportunity to learn more about ecology and expand my knowledge in the Biology field. In addition, studying abroad was always a part of my four-year plan at Wooster. I feel that SIT programs especially fit well with the Wooster curriculum because both institutions exhibit many of the same characteristics such as a focus on independent learning. I feel that my Independent Study Project conducted on butterflies in Pete Village gave me experience in preparing for the Independent Study program at Wooster.

SIT Tanzania: Zanzibar

“Based in Zanzibar’s Stone Town at the Institute of Marine Science, the program includes excursions throughout the Zanzibar and Mafia archipelagos and along the mainland coast. Lectures and visits to protected areas highlight the complex dynamics of local ecosystems. Additional excursions challenge students to reframe notions of sustainability and “overpopulation” in light of the factors driving environmental degradation.”

Come to the IPO or check out <http://www.sit.edu/studyabroad> for more information!