

Off-Campus Study Student Profiles

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Major: History

Siena School for Liberal Arts, Siena, Italy



Program Highlights:

- Homestay with a Sieneese family
- Fantastic food
- Travel within Tuscany, and to Rome, Venice and Perugia
- Unique and fascinating classes

How did your experience fit into your Wooster education?

I hadn't taken any classes at Wooster within my major. Being in Italy and living in the middle of a medieval city was a history lesson within itself. My experience really taught me about going outside of your comfort zone and exploring all the opportunities that are thrown at you. I never expected that I would come home from my study abroad experience having produced a children's book, or being able to communicate in two new languages or to now know the secret to making great pesto. Coming back to Wooster, I am now better able to critically think about other cultures and how I fit into the greater world picture.

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

I took a fantastic bookbinding class taught by an Australian bookbinder. We explored a variety of techniques, everything from a traditional leather bound book, to an exposed binding and a fold out book. I also took an education and linguistics class focusing on the deaf culture. The three-part class consisted of sign language, a seminar and service learning, all of which allowed us to interact with the deaf community. In the final service learning component we each made a book geared towards educating deaf students.

My favorite part about my classes was the exposure to new experiences. The professors really worked to get us out of the classroom, and each incorporated location into the class. My art history class, for instance, would spend at least one day a week in the city looking at art. My book binding class visited a working studio.

Tell about a unique experience that contributed to your education.

One of my favorite experiences was living with my host family and the dinners that we shared. All students at the Siena School must live in a homestay and are encouraged to share as many meals with their families as possible. I would arrive home at the same time as my host mom and then spend the first part of my evenings in the kitchen, learning how to prepare Italian food. Dinner gave me time to interact with "real Italians" and to really get to know the culture I was living in.

The Siena School for Liberal Arts, Siena, Italy

This program offers a unique study abroad experience in one of the oldest and most beautiful university towns in Italy. Courses taught in English and Italian range from Internships and Community Service to the Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

Come to the IPO or check out <http://www.sienaschool.com> for more information!