Off-Campus Study Student Profile

Alison Peters '10

The Philadelphia Center

Program Highlights

- Internships in a wide variety of fields
- Urban experience
- Faculty-student relationships

Why did you choose your program and location in particular?

I chose the Philadelphia Center because of its unique internship program. I often get asked the question, "Well, what are you going to do with a major in Women's Studies?" I hoped The Philadelphia Center would help me find the answer and it did. I also found the urban aspect of the program appealing:living independently (find an apartment, pay rent, navigate the city) with the safety net of The Philadelphia Center staff to help me.

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

My internship helped me take what I'd learned in classes about feminist analysis and apply it to real life jobs and situations. The Philadelphia Center has given me tools to use my Wooster education for something fruitful, such as activism or legal reform.

How did the courses you took compare to courses at Wooster?

I took two classes — one on education and one about gender and sexuality in fiction & film. The workload in each class was comparable to that of an average class at Wooster, but both challenged me to bring my critical thinking skills to a whole new level. The experiential learning philosophy of The Philadelphia Center required us to reflect on our own life experiences within the context of course themes.

What specific advice would you give to other students preparing for this program and for living in your host country, or studying off-campus in general?

Be bold and take advantage of all the opportunities the city and the program have to offer. Use internships to test the field you think you want to work in or to try something completely outside your comfort zone.

The Philadelphia Center Program

For more than 40 years, The Philadelphia Center has offered college students a semester of experiential education; a unique hands-on program geared toward professional, academic, and personal growth in an active urban environment.

For more information please stop by the Office of Off-Campus Studies in Babcock Hall, 103 or have a look at www.wooster.edu/Academics/Off-Campus-Study.