

# Off-Campus Study Student Profiles

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*Major: Sociology*

**SIT: Cape Town, South Africa**



### Program Highlights:

- Homestays with four different families
- Learning to speak Xhosa
- Independent study: I shadowed five young people from various backgrounds for one day. I learned about their lives, identities and ideas. In the process, I learned a great deal about being a youth in post-apartheid South Africa.

### ***Why did you choose your program and location in particular?***

I chose Cape Town for the opportunity to experience dozens of different types of cultures throughout the course of the semester. I also wanted to visit the continent of Africa, and to volunteer in an area with a high HIV infection rate so as to further understand the epidemic.

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

Classes while taken abroad are often location-specific. I took language courses in Xhosa, research ethics, photography, and multiculturalism. The applicability of a class on multiculturalism in South Africa was high, as it is a nation of an incredibly diverse people, with eleven national languages.

### ***Tell about a unique experience that you had abroad.***

I stayed with four different families from various racial, socio-economic, and educational backgrounds. The families spoke a range of three languages, and practiced four different religions. The exposure to each culture forced me to immediately confront the fact that there is absolutely no superior way of being.

### ***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?***

Pack lightly, read as much of the history of the country as you can, and pack twice as many homestay gifts as you think you need. Some of your families could use all the help you will be able to give them.

### SIT: Multiculturalism and Social Change, Cape Town, South Africa

This program incorporates seminars, field research, and homestays in its focus “on identity to explore the sociopolitical debates surrounding South Africa’s multicultural society as it strives for social reform and a sound economy.”

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