

# Camille Chabaneix – UF in Paris

**Major:** Finance | **Minor:** Information Systems

## I studied abroad because...

Having moved several times throughout my childhood, I grew a deep fascination for diversity at a very early age. I knew that traveling and immersing myself in different cultures would become one of my greatest passions as I transitioned into adulthood, so embarking on the experience of a lifetime: studying abroad in Paris, France, was a no brainer!

## One of my biggest challenges before studying abroad:

The financial aspect of studying abroad was my main concern when finalizing my decision to embark on this journey. I was not certain that I could pay for the expenses of going abroad (tuition, room & board, etc.) and still have the funds to travel and engage in touristy activities. Luckily, I was a Sones Scholarship recipient, which I applied for directly through our school! I don't think that my experience abroad would have been nearly as unique had it not been for the Sones family.

## A typical meal I had while studying abroad:

My go-to snack while abroad was a Nutella *crêpe* with sliced bananas. I would walk to the 14th *arrondissement* multiple times a week to enjoy this sweet treat!

## My favorite spot in my host city was...

the Seine River. My friends and I would jam to music, chat, and cheer on the boats that passed by before making our way back to campus for dinner. This is a memory that I will forever hold dear to my heart.

## One cool event I got to experience while abroad:

While abroad, I was able to partake in the processions that happen every year in Sevilla, Spain. This event was particularly neat because I experienced it by pure coincidence! Prior to arriving in Sevilla, I had no notion of the festivities, so I was caught completely off guard. There was so much life in the city, it almost felt magical!

## The strangest experience for me while abroad was...

while visiting Morocco. During my ten-day stay, I rode a camel through the Sahara Desert and camped the night in the "Big Sahara" where I was able to talk to locals and take in their culture and stories.

## A hobby I picked up while abroad:

While abroad, I picked up a new hobby: running! The beauty of Paris is best seen when you walk through the different *arrondissements*, so I figured running would be a perfect way to stay in shape while familiarizing myself with the city.

## What I found most challenging while abroad was...

the death of a family member. It was very hard not to be surrounded by family during this time, especially because I was a long way from home. Despite the unfortunate circumstance, I received so much support from UF, SJU, and friends, that I was able to soldier through my semester abroad and make the best of my time there!

## What surprised me most about study abroad:

Before leaving to Paris, I was scared that I would lose touch with my friends from home, as I was the only one from my friend group who went abroad. I didn't want to miss out on all the fun things and milestones they were collectively doing, but like with all things, I pushed myself to reason the amazing opportunity given to me and took the leap!

## My last bit of advice:

The best advice I could give someone who is on the fence about studying abroad is to venture out into the wild! It's normal to be scared of experiencing new things, we are only human. Overthinking studying abroad can and will send your hamster wheel spinning, so just dive into the experience and enjoy the ride!