I studied abroad because...
I had never traveled outside of the country before, and I felt like I was missing out on the world. I didn’t want to be cradled into it, I wanted a challenge.

One of my biggest challenges before studying abroad:
By far my biggest concern when looking into studying abroad was the price, especially during preliminary research. However, I was fortunate enough to receive Bright Futures funding and the Robert Rose Memorial Scholarship while abroad.

A typical meal I had while studying abroad was...
Jianbing! You can buy them from street carts anywhere in China. They use eggs and batter to create a wrap with chicken, veggies, and a special spicy sauce. I had to learn to say “bu la”, which means “no spice” in Mandarin because it was too hot for me.

My favorite spot in my host city:
I visited the National Museum of China three times. It was massive, with towering statues of communist leaders and thirty-foot paintings of Chinese villages. I loved it because I’m interested in history, especially mid-twentieth century and there were many exhibits on Mao Zedong and his revolution.

One cool event I got to experience while abroad:
We watched a stunt show where they fit five motorcycles into a spherical cage and drove around in it.

The most memorable experience for me while abroad:
We tried pig brain! My friends and I were eating out and the table next to us ordered some so, naturally, we took a little interest in it. The owners apparently noticed because they gave us an order of it for free. It tasted exactly how you imagine it would.

A habit I picked up while abroad:
In China, internet access is very limited so I had to find other ways to occupy my time. So rather than picking up a new habit I broke a bad old one: spending way too much time on my phone.

What I found most challenging while abroad was...
The language barrier, which made things so difficult to communicate. I joked that every day abroad someone said something I didn’t understand at all.

What surprised me most about study abroad was...
The heat! Some days it got up to 105º F.

My last bit of advice:
Studying abroad can seem daunting but it is assuredly worth it. If you go into it with an open mind, you will come out changed for the better.