Priscilla Louis – UF in Rome

**Major:** Management | **Minor:** Economics

I studied abroad because...
I wanted to expand my worldview and learn more about different people and cultures through immersion.

One of my biggest challenges before studying abroad was...
acquiring enough finances to make the trip possible. I almost did not go because I was having a hard time getting enough money together, but in the end, I received a lot of scholarship money, which made it possible.

A typical meal I had while studying abroad:
A typical dinner for me was pasta, either from a restaurant or homemade. From *arrabbiata* to *cacio e pepe* and pesto to basil pasta, the options were endless.

My favorite spot in my host city was...
Piazza Cavour. It’s a large plaza where families gather in the evenings; children and the cutest dogs are running around and just living life. It was so beautiful to just people watch there every now and then and enjoy the sunset while sitting in the grass eating gelato.

One cool event I got to experience while abroad:
I was fortunate enough to be in Rome during the festival of St. Peter and St. Paul. On this holiday, portraits of the saints created out of flower petals are laid out on the street in front of the Vatican, and they’re very beautifully made. Then in the evening, everyone gathers in Piazza del Popolo to watch the 20-minute fireworks show. It was such an amazing and authentic experience.

The strangest experience for me while abroad was...
was a 12-year-old girl airdropping my friends and I memes while we were at the Trevi Fountain.

A habit I picked up while abroad was...
wandering around the city (safety of course!). If I was ever bored or looking for adventure, I would just go out and start walking around. There are so many new and beautiful things to see around Rome; each walk was different.

What I found most challenging while abroad was...
managing money. Since I didn’t bring a credit card, I had to rely on my debit card and the small amount of cash I had to make purchases. Combined with high transaction fees and a high exchange rate, I cringed every time I had to spend money. Eventually I found a trusted local bank where I could take out money with low transaction fees, which eased my mind.

What surprised me most about study abroad:
It’s so easy to travel to different countries within Europe!

My last bit of advice:
Saying “yes” to study abroad is a decision that will change and enrich your life.