Victoria Lageyr – UF in Rome

Major: Economics | Minor: Business Administration

I studied abroad because...
I wanted to experience a different culture, broaden my international skills, and see amazing monuments.

One of my biggest challenges before studying abroad was...
making the journey to Rome alone. I knew no one before my trip and was very nervous about spending two months in a foreign country.

A typical meal I had while studying abroad:
A typical breakfast I had was a lemon and chocolate muffin with a cappuccino from the bakery across the street!

My favorite spot in my host city was...
the Vatican City. It has so much history and culture all settled into a few buildings. I would often go to mass in St. Peter’s Basilica and wander around afterwards taking in the serenity and beauty of St. Peter’s Square.

One cool event I got to experience while abroad:
One weekend, a couple of friends and I had planned to go to Venice. Once we arrived, our host told us that we were there on the most anticipated weekend of the year. There was to be fireworks and parties all throughout the island, which we did not expect at all. It was an amazing coincidence!

The most memorable experience for me while abroad:
One of the last weekends in Rome, there was a movie premiere at the movie theater five blocks from our dorm. A couple of friends and I decided to see if anyone famous would be coming, not expecting to really know any Italian celebrities. Amazingly, the premiere was for Once Upon a Time in Hollywood, and Margot Robbie and Leonardo DiCaprio happened to be there!

A habit I picked up while abroad:
I picked up a lot of Italian phrases throughout my language course that I still use today in the States just because they remind me of my time abroad.

What I found most challenging while abroad:
I missed my family tremendously. Being six hours ahead of them would get very tiring when our schedules would not align, but after a while, my family and I got the hang out it and were able to communicate better at that time.

What surprised me most about study abroad was...
how close I could get to people after only knowing them for a couple of weeks. Everyone on the program was so nice and welcoming and it was a wonderful experience getting to know them all.

My last bit of advice:
I would highly recommend doing thorough research before going on your trip. Two months may sound like a lot of time, but it really flies by. I would recommend making a list of everything you want to see and do on your trip so that you can do them all and not have any regrets coming back!