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### End of Study Abroad Program Report

In May of 2016 I was able to travel to Vienna, Austria and study at Actilingua. Thanks to the scholarship I received from the Language department at West Chester University I was able to go on this life changing adventure and expand my knowledge. I am so thankful for the opportunities that were given to me because of the scholarship. I made long lasting friendships that have guided me through this fall semester and helped me grow as an individual.

From the financial assistance I got with this scholarship I was able to plan a lot more on my trip and was also able to extend my trip. I ended up flying into Nuremberg, Germany two weeks prior and spent time traveling around the city and meeting some amazing people. I experienced a traditional festival, which was similar to an American carnival but with German folk music and there I learned a handful of the songs.

From there I took a bus and got to meet the rest of the West Chester group, the people that I met that day became some of my closest and most trusted friends. We traveled to countless museums when we were out of class. We also ventured into a famous vineyard, we traveled to Bratislava, Budapest, Salzburg and so many other places. We went to an aquarium which had a really interesting historical background to the building itself, and saw one of the most amazing zoo's in the world. And after the adventure finished in Vienna, most of the people on the trip headed home, but me and a handful of people went on to see more of Europe.

Stephanie, a friend that I met on the trip, and I ended up going to Munich after classes were over and we walked a huge part of the city. We went to the Isar River and got to experience the current of the water, it was similar to a natural lazy river. Then we ended up traveling to

Prague where we met a man whom only spoke Russian and we were able to help him find a way home to his family by translating. On our way back to Vienna, a man sat across from us on the bus and he told us about how he was fleeing the war in Syria.

It was an amazing journey that I made. I advanced my german to a new level, I got to use my russian to help a man, and I got to hear powerful stories that touched my heart. The memories and friends that I made on this trip are irreplaceable and treasured in my heart. I am so thankful for all of the moments that I made, and they were all possibly because of the scholarship I received. I would not be who I am today, and I would not have such an inspiring group of people in my life without the possibilities that this scholarship provided me. I aspire to pay-it-forward in my daily life and encourage others to take the opportunities to travel and explore this world in hopes that they will be able to have experiences of a lifetime just like I did.