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Study Abroad Report

Summer 2017

Vienna, Austria

Studying German abroad in Vienna is one of my favorite experiences I've had in my life. The classes were challenging but I learned so much. The city is beautiful and I had such a great time living in Vienna for a month. I am very grateful to the Department of Languages and Cultures because without the scholarship I would not have been able to have this exciting and beautiful experience.

The scholarship covered my tuition for six credits, room and board, and most of my meals on the month long trip. Studying German at Actilingua University was a great experience. I scored into the C1 level class, which only had one other student that regularly attended so I received individual attention during every class. We only spoke German during class and the other student did not speak English as her first language so we had a great deal of practice defining words and concepts using only other German words. This skill helped me very much in the following semester in my German classes because I was able to express myself better and explain concepts in German. At Actilingua we focused on the nuances of the German language like understanding particles and how they change the meaning or feeling of a sentence and turning verbs into noun phrases and vice versa. This class helped me be more comfortable speaking and writing in German and taught me many new and useful words and phrases.

The best part about being in Vienna was living in the city and getting to practice German every day. Navigating public transportation and ordering food in a foreign country is much easier when you speak the language. The teachers at Actilingua are also from the area

so they gave us recommendations on the best places to go in the city for food and activities. I ate ice cream every day and swam in the Danube each week. The buildings, parks, and public places in Vienna are gorgeous and what I miss the most about the city. Europe has a special beauty and charm that is perfectly exemplified by the city of Vienna. As a group we visited the city of Salzburg in Austria, which had breathtaking mountains and a fortress that we explored. We also went to Budapest, Hungary and Bratislava, Slovakia and these cities were interesting and rich with history. On the free weekend I stayed in Prague, Czech Republic for two nights and had an amazing time.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to realize my dream of living and studying in a German speaking country and traveling to different cities in Europe. I met so many amazing people and really progressed with my German skills, giving me confidence and knowledge that helped me greatly during my last semester at West Chester University. Living in the city and being fully immersed was so helpful and gave me the resources I needed to take my language skills to the next level, as well as helping me gain a greater appreciation for and understanding of the culture and people of Vienna and Austria. I will never forget the experiences I had during this trip and am so happy I was able to go thanks to the generous scholarship from the Department of Languages and Cultures.