

Christine Wingood

Study Abroad Program 2014

I cannot even describe how fortunate I was to receive the Study Abroad Award. This award was truly a blessing to my family and myself. I was able to utilize the award money to support my academic growth in a way I always hoped and dreamed: studying abroad. With this award, my family and I were able to pay for my courses without stressing over money.

My study abroad trip to Argentina during the first summer session was honestly the best experience of my life. I was able to live in a different country and be a part of such an amazing culture. Aside from improving my conversational skills in Spanish, I was also able to increase my confidence in my abilities and myself. My experience will forever have a special place in my heart. Living in a foreign country on your own isn't easy, but it made me who I am today. Thanks to my study abroad trip I have become much more mature than I was before. I learned how to navigate through a huge city, speak to the natives in a different language, and figure out how to travel. I didn't have the ability to call my parents on the phone to ask a question- I had no one to rely on but myself. I grew in so many ways and became independent. After this trip, I feel like I can conquer the world.

I made lifelong friends on my journey that I am forever grateful for. They were able to help me adjust to a new life while still allowing me to figure things out on my own. I will never forget my loving host mother, Norma, who I still speak to every week. She greatly added to my experience. We quickly bonded and would watch game shows

together every night during dinner, which helped me improve on my vocabulary and knowledge of the country.

My role shifted from being a visitor to being a local. I felt like I belonged and I consider Argentina my second home. Studying abroad has taught me many important life lessons and I am so thankful that I was able to receive financial help to make my dream become my reality.