

Before:

What is your name?

Natalie

What is your Major?

Early and Elementary Education

What is your Minor/ Focus?

French, European History

Where are you going for your study abroad experience?

Angers, France

When are you going, and for how long?

Spring semester 2009 (Feb-June)

Why did you decide to go on an exchange?

I have always been fascinated with languages and the exchange program gives me the chance to learn French by using it everyday. I believe that every student should participate in study abroad to help them truly understand another part of our world.

What do you hope to get out of it?

I would like to meet lots of people and learn about the French culture while improving my knowledge of the language. I hope to learn how to travel by myself and figure out the metro system in Paris. I also plan on traveling on the weekends and would like to visit other places in Europe.

After:

How was your exchange?

Overall I had an amazing time in Angers! It was fun making another city my home and getting to know a different group of people. My classes were interesting and at a good level for me. I got along with my host parents. And, most of all, I am now confident in my abilities to travel around Europe successfully!

What was the hardest thing for you?

I chose to stay for 1 month after my program ended so I could travel around Europe. It was very hard for me to say goodbye to my friends and know that they were all going home. By the end I was feeling pretty homesick and it was really difficult to stay for another month. I would recommend doing the traveling before, during school breaks, and limit it to only a short time after the program ends.

What was the greatest thing for you?

I made some wonderful friends during my stay in France! Some were French, but I also got to know the other Americans in my group and made deep friendships with them. We were linked in our love of learning about another culture and language. Also, it's very easy to have memorable adventures with people when you are exploring another country!

Would you recommend your experience to other students?

I really enjoyed my time in France and would definitely recommend it to other students! It will change the way you look at yourself and your culture. Plus, it just so much fun!