

Major: Communications; Fine Arts minor

Why did you choose Costa Rica?

I wanted to go on the Costa Rica program a couple of years ago. Now that I'm a senior, I decided that I had to go because I would never have this opportunity again. I wish I would have done it earlier, because now I want to travel more.

Costa Rica as a second home:

I loved everything about Costa Rica. It felt like I was in a dream because it's so different from home. I really loved Tirimbina because we stayed there the longest and connected more with the people. We could see what they do and how they do it. It was a more hands-on experience.

“No matter how many pictures I show people, it's never going to be the same as being there. When I was there, I was in awe!”

First Impressions:

When we stopped on the side of the road the first day to look at the first waterfall, it was so close, that it was surreal to me. It's just so beautiful that it feels like you're in a movie.

Impact of Study Abroad:

I really wanted people to experience what I experienced, and I wanted to give back to the people of Costa Rica at the same time.

For my senior capstone project, I planned and created a “Costa Rica Experience” that was also a fundraiser for the Sloth Sanctuary in Costa Rica. Doing all of the planning for my capstone experience gave me the opportunity to re-live my study abroad experience and made Costa Rica feel real to me because it was so unbelievable while I was down there.

How were you transformed?

I really learned to appreciate life a lot more because you see how other people live and you compare that to your life. Here, we take for granted waking up to birds. In Costa Rica, everything was more significant — waking up to the sound of monkeys, seeing new things each day. It opens your eyes up. Also, everyone there is so happy, it gives a good energy to you. Just saying “Pura vida” makes me so happy. I'm a much more positive person now.



Chloe poses underneath a leaf of the *Gunnera* plant, known commonly as the “poor man's umbrella” in Costa Rica.