

Major: Spanish, Psychology minor
Gilman Scholarship Recipient

Why did you choose Peru ?

I had heard of Peru, but didn't know anything about it, and I wanted to go somewhere I was not familiar with. Also, I really wanted to see Machu Picchu, and the Peru program was cost-effective.



Host Family: My host family was awesome. It was nice to experience having siblings for the first time ever and to see a different perspective on family. They were patient in helping us with the language.

*“Do it! Make it happen!
Don't let anyone discourage you from
studying abroad.”*

Biggest Cultural Difference: The whole time perspective was really different. Peruvians tend to take their time rather than everyone being in a big rush. There was also a difference in regard to personal space — the locals were very affectionate and welcoming.

Academics: I liked the classes because we studied grammar and the language, the culture, and economics. We got the whole package!



Shay with her host mother.

How were you transformed? I have learned to better manage my time, especially for what is important, so I have time for family. I've learned that I'm very independent, in being able to travel without having my own family there. It also taught me to follow directions and follow the rules.

Future Impact: Studying abroad gave me a different cultural perspective and made appreciate the benefits of education, because you get to see what the education system is like in other places. My Spanish has really improved, so I'm hoping that my greater fluency will help me to land a good job. Plus, the cultural knowledge that I have now will help me to relate to people that I work with.

Volunteering: Any time you're helping somebody, you just get so much out of it. It made me appreciate what it means to help other people. Arequipa is a humbling place that shows you how to prioritize and not be so materialistic. Everyone is so friendly, welcoming and helpful.