

COE Study Abroad in Milan

By Margaret Morgan

It has been almost a week since I returned from my study abroad trip. I am still processing it all because it was absolutely amazing. Of course things didn't always go smoothly which meant I had plenty of experiences to learn from. I was off to a rough start when our flight was delayed and we missed the connecting flight. After close to 24 hours of travel just to arrive in Milan, our luggage was missing. We received it two days later which tested our attitudes and ability to stay positive but the next four weeks went uphill for the most part.

The first weekend we were able to explore the beautiful city and shortly after, we started clinical observations at the American School of Milan. I was exposed to several different teaching styles which helped me to form my own core values regarding education and practices I will use in my future classroom. Each weekend we took little excursions to different places around Europe. The first weekend we went to Florence and Rome, the second weekend my roommates and I traveled to Greece (amazing views and the people were so friendly!), the following weekend we took a day trip through the Swiss Alps and another day trip to Venice. Our whole study abroad group then headed to Cinque Terre which was probably my absolute favorite trip because it felt like a vacation. We were able to hike in between cities and lay on the beach and eat seafood for dinner. Our last day of study abroad was spent at this beautiful winery called Agriturismo Torrazzetta which had a beautiful pool and dining hall. Study abroad had come to an end but my roommate and I continued on to London for the weekend and Brighton the very last day.

Overall, it was eye opening to explore many different cultures and ways of life. I have learned that while traveling can be exhausting, it is such a blessing. The experience made me think more seriously about teaching abroad and all the possible paths my career could take. My study abroad has also sparked new curiosities and a new hunger for knowledge. I have so many questions about the world now that I've had a little taste of what it's like in Europe and I am eager to share my experiences with everyone!