

UNCW PLS STUDENTS ABROAD

Student: Lauren Prema

Countries: France and South Africa

Duration: Two semesters, academic year 2008-2009



Photo: With elephant friends, South Africa (2009)

What did you do abroad that you couldn't do at UNCW?

In France, being immersed into the French culture helped me learn the language in a way I wouldn't have been able to in an American classroom. Also, the museums are phenomenal, and studying in France allowed me to easily travel to and experience surrounding countries and regions.



In Africa, I was able to experience what it was like to live in a developing nation and to be integrated in a new way of life. There were students from all around the world, and I especially valued the friends I made from different countries in Africa and hearing their stories. Ultimately, I learned we're all alike but with different backgrounds. I learned more about animals and the environment by going on safaris, hiking, and shark cage diving, than I would have ever learned in a classroom.

What was different in you when you returned from study abroad? I gained a broader appreciation for people of different cultures, education level, and personalities. I also became fascinated with others' travels and experiences which helped me open up to new people.

Any other comments about study abroad for other PLS students? Studying abroad was best thing I've done; it has opened me up to a new world of possibilities. I have been able to make friends with people from all over the world and create unique bonds over our experiences. I encourage future students to go somewhere and have their lives changed.



Photo: Visiting Daniell Cheetah Breeding Project, Kirkwood, South Africa (2009). Lauren is at center, lying on friends' knees.