

Student Testimony Melissa Lloyd, University of Pittsburgh 2023

Why did you decide to come to Augsburg for the Summer Program?

I didn't get to have a study abroad program due to Covid and had studied the German language since I was in middle school and wanted to make use of my knowledge.

Why do you think it is worth participating in the Augsburg Summer Program?

I think the summer study in Augsburg is the perfect study abroad program because it takes place in a smaller historic town that has plenty to do itself but is small enough to keep you feeling safe. It is also fairly centrally located and allows you to travel often to see other parts of Germany and Europe. The class options themselves are things that I wouldn't have been able to study in the US. I feel like I am getting a major advantage compared to my peers at home because I have spent the summer learning European and International law treaties that will greatly help my career if I work somewhere that conducts business internationally.

What did you enjoy and like the most about your classes? What did you maybe not like as much or what are your suggestions to do differently?

I liked the professors and students from different countries and Universities the best. Even though I didn't get to travel to each European country this summer, I feel as though I got to know more about some countries and their legal system through visiting professors and other international students. The one thing I found the most difficult was certain group assignments for presentations. Some of the students' first language is not English and it would be difficult to keep everyone involved in a group project or the standards and effort put into a project by native speakers and non native speakers seemed either like it was different or should be different because of the effort it would take a non native speaker to do the same work.

I'm not sure if this is something you all could supply or would more be something my home University should do, but I had a lot of trouble procuring housing and a lot of my friends here also had a hard time finding housing or found really bad housing. I'm not sure if the University is even able to do this, but I imagine if you partnered with a group of flats or airbnbs you could get some type of discount and students would have a much easier time finding housing that they know will be convenient and not sketchy.

I also think if you are able to, I would've really appreciated some shorter classes. I really enjoyed my first day of WTO law, but I simply did not have the attention span to sit through a 4 hour class each week and retain that much information. I wish I was able to stay in that class, but I knew I wouldn't be able to do well on the exam I would have to take.

What did you like about the city of Augsburg, how and where did you spend your free time?

Augsburg is my favorite city in the world. I thought it was the perfect size because it was big enough that there was always a new restaurant for me to try but it was also small enough that I never felt in danger walking around alone (even late at night). I spent most of my time in the main plaza area around the Moritzplatz and Rathaus. I would recommend that you suggest that future students live closer to the Königsplatz instead of around the University.

Where did you travel to? Which destination did you enjoy the most/what can you recommend?

I spent most weekends traveling around. I went to München, Murnau, Dachau, Lindau, Baden Baden, and Neuschwanstein in Germany. Outside of Germany, I went to Salzburg and Croatia. I spent the most time in Croatia (and it was a little too hot for me) but I think the place I would recommend the most was Murnau, it was the most beautiful lake town I have ever been to.

Do you have any conclusionary words about your time in Augsburg?

This was definitely the most wonderful study abroad that I could've asked for. Having a smaller group of students definitely enabled me to become better friends with people while also feeling like there was always someone around to hang out with. I was really shocked by how much I learned in each course despite not having a ton of classes and professors not giving much homework because they wanted us to be able to travel. Also I'd like to say that Christian Kolbe and Professor Möllers were so helpful throughout the entire program and especially before the program began.