

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

CAROLINA SILVA

Program: CIEE Business, Communications and Culture at Vesalius College, Fall

Carolina's Major: Communications

Academic Life: I took Intercultural Communications; Global Advocacy; The Belgian Experience; French; and an Internship. I was hesitant about the internship, but in the end it was one of the best things I did. It got me out of my CIEE program bubble, and I got to meet many people who are very passionate about art and fashion. I learned so much about communications--to a point where I feel way more secure about my future career.

Internship Abroad: I worked at Pure Communications Agency and wrote articles for the llovebelgium.com blog, and got to learn from talking to my coworkers about public relations in Fashion. It showed me how many different things one can do in communications, and that I want to work in a creative environment with others who are passionate about art, fashion, and/or film. It's a great experience to break up the routine and do things you never expected to do.

Finding Home: I'm Brazilian and American, and I felt like Belgium accepted my identity a lot better than the United States. Finding Brazilian and Portuguese food was so easy, and it felt more like home than it sometimes feels in Madison.

New Perspectives: I feel way more comfortable in what I will do with my life in the future. I have lived in many different countries, and I'm a Third Culture Kid. This study abroad experience reminded me that I can move away, and I can keep my roots, and I can lay down new ones too.

Tips for Future Students: CIEE sets you up to be in an American bubble, but the reality is that you make of it what you want. As long as you make the conscious decision to branch out, it is totally doable.



Carolina (middle) and friends are excited for a soccer game.

“This is your chance to break out of your shell and really make independent decisions!”

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