

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

NORA HERZOG

Program: UW Spanish Language in Costa Rica, Winter

Nora's Majors: Microbiology; Comparative Literature

Academic Life: I had an individual class (Spanish 101) with an amazing professor who spent a lot of time with me working on building my vocabulary in my areas of interest, as well as helping me understand advanced grammatical concepts. The class was amazing.

Housing: I lived in a host family with seven children in their teens to early thirties. They were all very friendly, helpful, and funny.

Most Memorable Moments: My most memorable experience was hiking up Santa Ana with one of my best friends. It was the hardest hike I've ever done, but it was beautiful and rewarding to finish.

Social Cues: When greeting friends, or when meeting new people, it is common to hug and "air-kiss" the cheek of the other person.

Tips for Future Students: Do not under any circumstances let yourself speak English if you are serious about learning the language. I spoke only Spanish for the entire duration of the program, and it made all the difference for me.

Benefits of Study Abroad: I would like to become a health care provider, and I believe that it is essential to be able to communicate with non-English speakers in their native language, especially because they are often already marginalized, and health care can be an incredibly stressful necessity. My studies in Spanish will hopefully allow me to communicate in a more familiar way with these communities.



Nora looking out over San Jose.

“Be respectful. Be open-minded.”

