

Rome, Italy

Julianne Liu



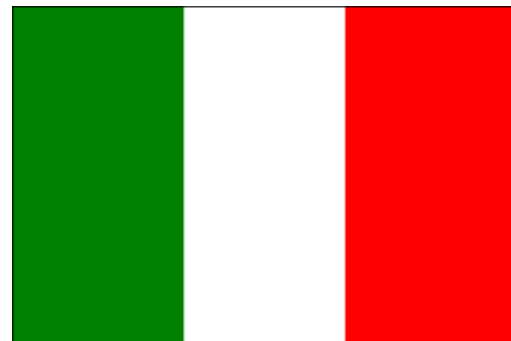
Program: Humanities in Motion: Rome, Summer 2018

Majors: Geography and French

Earning the Research Experience Badge:



Rome is overflowing with history, and the opportunity for research exists everywhere as time is incredibly tangible in "the eternal city." Bustling roads of Fiats and mopeds surround ancient ruins, medieval churches appear dwarfed next to their Baroque neighbors, and Renaissance frescoes are housed in museums while street art decorates the exteriors of nearby buildings. My research project centers on the Baroque era and its colossal impact on the landscape of modern Rome. While reading books and listening to lectures generated images of grandeur and opulence, neither method could fully capture the structures in their actuality. Through visiting and engaging with these spaces, I could personally uncover the immensity and intensity of the magnificent churches and emotion-saturated artwork. Overall, this combination of literature, lecture, and experience proved to be the ultimate learning experience. After uniting facts with personal sentiments, my comprehension of the epochs and their respective people grew enormously.



Earning the Community Engagement Badge:



The Humanities in Motion: Rome itinerary focuses daily on a different epoch, and I earned the Community Engagement Badge through visiting the Joel Nafumo Refugee Center on the day dedicated to Modern Rome. While there, I listened to detailed presentations explaining the history, statistics, and politics surrounding the European migration crisis as well as the journey, struggles, and experiences of a man who fled from central Africa. Additionally, I was given time to explore the center, speak with whoever was willing, and participate in activities in the common area. Over a game of ping pong, I had the opportunity to get to know a young man named Giovanni and listen to a few chapters of his story. Although incredibly clichéd, my visit and new friendship have helped me to both better understand what refugees face after their arrivals and translate reported numbers into real people seeking to better their lives.



Transferable Skills:



The title, "Humanities in Motion," contributed greatly to my initial interest in the program as I am extremely interested in the mobility and dynamic nature of time and history. Through studying and engaging with the past, patterns emerge and connections bridging time periods become more apparent; many details are incredibly relevant to the modern era. In addition to better understanding the relationship between the past and present in Rome, I have also learned to recognize these patterns more generally in other cities and countries. Using this skill in combination with a broadened cultural perspective, I seek to continue analyzing current affairs against a historical backdrop to promote a deeper understanding in my coursework and as I follow the news.

“The importance of studying the humanities cannot be overstated. Going beyond lecture halls and assigned readings to interact with Rome, its people, and its landscape of tangible history has filled me with new knowledge, changed perspectives, unforgettable memories, and an astonishing amount of delicious gelato.”