

# Florianópolis, Brazil

## Lucas Pereira



**Program:** USAC Brazil: Brazilian Cultural Studies, Global Economy, and Natural Resource Management in Florianópolis, Summer 2018

**Major:** Biology

### Earning the Language Immersion Badge:



Growing up in a Brazilian family, I picked up some Portuguese, but there was never a truly urgent need for me to be able to actually speak the language. Being in Brazil, especially traveling to areas where barely anyone spoke English, gave me that need to really learn how to speak Portuguese beyond the basics. Although I took a Portuguese class in Brazil, spending my time in Florianópolis with a

homestay mother was one of the best ways I developed my Portuguese. I talked to her every morning during breakfast, when I came back from my classes, as well as during dinnertime every day. I was able to pick up several nuances in the language by talking to her, as well as her grandchildren when they would come to visit.

The USAC program also had language buddies who would come with the American students to the excursions set up by the affiliate. Being able to talk to people my age was another excellent way for me to develop my language skills. A classroom setting can only do so much for your education on a foreign language; there's an entire world out there beyond the classroom where you can learn much more from. There are so many things that we do not even think about how knowledgeable we are in our language until we realize that we are not able to fully articulate our thoughts on it in another language, and so being able to learn to do so with the guidance of a homestay mother and by the language partners have greatly enhanced my ability to communicate in Portuguese.

### Transferable Skills:



Now that I am more fluent in Portuguese, I am able to communicate with my family in that language much more efficiently. With Portuguese being so close to Spanish, I am able to better understand Spanish too, which is becoming more important with the large influx of Spanish speakers in our community. Being multilingual opens many doors for me in terms of opportunities, and I intend to continue to sharpen

my Portuguese, as well as to learn more Spanish, so that I may apply those skills in reaching out to more people in my community. Being a good communicator is the key to being successful, and this experience has significantly enriched my communication skills.



***“Being a first-generation American, my dream has always been to immerse myself in my parents' cultures and learn more about my heritage. If I do not know my culture, then I cannot truly know myself. Going on this journey was certainly a dream come true.”***