

Kiel, Germany

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Program: Intensive German Language & Culture - Summer 2019

Major: Film & Media Arts

Earning the Community Engagement Badge:



My community engagement project allowed me to interact with and build meaningful connections with many Kiel locals through exercise activities. I learned that many Germans love to play soccer as well as sail. Well, the sailing bit might just be a Kiel or Northern Germany specific activity because of their proximity to the Baltic Sea as well as the annual Kieler Woche celebration. Anyway, sports are something many Germans highly value. Many are a part of programs at their local gymnasiums. One of my professors at the University of Kiel taught a sport class (basketball) at her local gymnasium for kids in wheelchairs. She was in a wheelchair also. She invited me to tag along a couple of times and I could tell that teaching these children was very important to her.



Earning the Language Immersion Badge:



Our University of Kiel German tutors were phenomenal assets in language immersion. They would throw small parties and invite the exchange students as well as their local, German friends. I was able to have real, productive discussions with Kiel locals in German. On our free weekend, I traveled to Munich by myself and was able to navigate from the top of Germany to the bottom all on my own using my knowledge of the German language. Recently, I was taking a Lyft in Miami and my Lyft driver only spoke Spanish and German, believe it or not. He was from Spain, but because of the communication skills I acquired during my study abroad, I was able to successfully have a conversation with someone whom I would've sat in silence next to otherwise.

Transferable Skills:



The language and cultural traditions that I learned during this study abroad program will help me to continue cultivating connections with people with whom I normally wouldn't be able to. The ability to make meaningful connections with different people is one of the most important skills in forming better interpersonal relationships, and strong communication skills are the key for better personal, academic, and workplace success.

"My learning abroad experience gave me the ability to better communicate with all sorts of people. By pushing myself out of my comfort zone, I was able to cultivate meaningful relationships with students across the globe just like me."