

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Isabel Fuller

Program: Honors Ecology & Legacy - Summer 2019

Majors: Honors Urban Ecology and Environmental & Sustainability Studies

Earning the Research Experience Badge:



I earned the Research Experience Badge in the Global U Program through the the Honors Ecology and Legacy Integrated Minor, which went to the eastern coast of southern Argentina. We conducted research in Puerto Piramides on the resident population of southern right

whales. My experience studying southern right whales on the Peninsula Valdes in Argentina provided me unique opportunities that I would not have otherwise had access to in a traditional learning environment. With one other student in my program, I was able to conduct research independently of other students and professors.

With some guidance of top whale researchers, we were given the freedom to design our own research studies based upon our specific interests in the whales. This allowed us to explore different methods that are used in typical research studies as well as hone our knowledge on the specific ones we chose to use. While we were allowed to work relatively independently in our research, we were also afforded the incomparable opportunity of working with researchers on the forefront of research on whales as well as other animals on the Peninsula Valdes and Patagonia. The experience I gained in my research involvement in Argentina pertaining to whales has laid a foundation for possible future endeavors in research fields.

Transferable Skills:



While in Argentina, although I have some experience with speaking Spanish, I was challenged to communicate with people of different cultures and obviously of different native languages. This experience interacting with a wide variety of people has taught me the value of expanding not only my language skills, but also being more patient and understanding of those who I may have difficulties communicating with because of superficial differences. Additionally, my research experience has made me a more critical thinker in all situations and across all disciplines. My improved understanding of research methods and techniques has made it easier to engage in conversation and discourse with other research, even in other disciplines.



“Learning abroad with a small group of honors students and faculty members in a non-english speaking country greatly increased my confidence in my interpersonal skills as well as academic abilities and future opportunities.”