

Todos Santos, Mexico

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Program: Culture, Ecology, and Sustainability Field School - Summer 2019

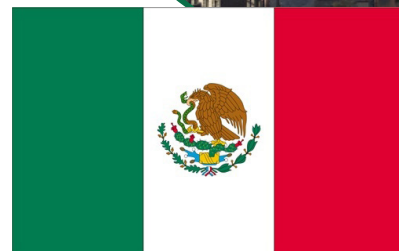
Majors: Anthropology and History

Earning the Community Engagement Badge:



During my time abroad in Todos Santos one of my goals was to really interact with the community of Todos Santos. Part of my program was connected to learning about how the locals felt about the changing cultural and ecological changes that are occurring in Baja California Sur. Todos Santos typifies these issues while providing unique solutions. In particular, we

talked a lot about problems regarding the lack of education and increase of substance abuse issues with youth. Most individuals felt that there was a lack of community support to motivate the youth. Through my interaction with the community of Todos Santos, I gained a different perspective and problem-solving solutions that I never would have considered before. This perspective is not only specific in regard to Todos Santos but has applications globally.



Earning the Research Experience Badge:



By earning the research experience badge, I learned how to conduct primary research. We spent a lot of time creating new ideas to better learn about Todos Santos itself. I spent time in Todos Santos increasing my research abilities. Throughout the experience, I learned and practiced several new research methods: scan sampling, participant observations, semi-structured interviews, unstructured interviews, historical demography, and ecotourism. This experience helped me work in further developing my research skills as well as how to approach all sorts of situations with an intent to learn. Through focusing on my research skills, I have significantly increased my researching

Transferable Skills:



Through my experience abroad, I learned several different transferable skills that I can apply to everyday life. They have boosted my awareness in life, my connection to fostering a relationship with my communities, as well as implementing a strong desire to learn and understand more. I am motivated to get up earlier, work harder for longer, and find a solution to my problems. I now focus more on collaboration and listening instead of focusing on getting my point heard. I actively choose to make each interaction a positive learning experience so that I can grow in my understanding. This experience has changed me in terms of my approach and perspective to my everyday life.

“The thing about learning abroad is that you never stop learning. The experiences stick with you as you conduct the rest of your life. You never have just one chance to learn. It happens every day regardless of circumstances. However, once you choose to actively learn more about yourself, your community, and your world the potential is endless.”