



University of New Hampshire
College of Liberal Arts

REvisions: UNH English

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banner courtesy of Kayla Barron, UNH '20

Idea into Action: Junior English Major Miller Gains New Outlook through Study Abroad

by Brianna Miller

I resided in Florence, Italy, this past spring semester. Going abroad was a big step for me, as I have a strong bond with family and friends, and a home that blossomed at UNH. The process took months of planning and decision-making the semester before, which was demanding and exhausting at times. However, I used that as an inspiration to fulfill something I've always wanted to do. Once I reached the Tuscan soil, I was reminded of the process and how extraordinary it is to work hard for something.

When the departure day finally arrived, I remember writing on my plane ticket (to later be transferred to a travel journal) two words: "strength" and "confidence." These are what I hoped to have gained in my experience from the semester ahead, as well as see things from a different perspective.

Adjusting to a new environment is always tough for me, but I welcomed it. I became accustomed to my surroundings as the weeks turned into months. I walked around the city in awe; I fell in love with the culture, language, and air. My daily routes to class and cafes was a history lesson in itself, as many buildings have remained untouched for thousands of years, displaying authenticity and true grace. In the last few weeks, I remember feeling grateful that I went on this adventure, as I've met amazing people (some from UNH), traveled to places I've read about (Italian cities/country-side, Switzerland, Spain, Paris, Ireland, and Germany!) and learned both inside and outside the classroom.

Packing up and leaving the country for four months is a big step. The idea is frightening, and it may not be for everyone. I can attest that through studying abroad, I have gained a new sense of confidence, strength, and positivity.



Photo courtesy of Brianna Miller

I've attained a new outlook on life, and it all started with the thought, "Yeah, Italy would be cool," which turned into an action. That's all it takes.

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Postcards from the World: UNH English Teaching Alums as Fulbright Scholars

Fulbright award winners Madison Pierce (UNH English Teaching, '18) and Erin Lee (UNH English Teaching, '17) wrote to describe their experiences from the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship. For more information on applying to the prestigious program, visit

<https://www.unh.edu/fellowships-office/>

Read more about Lee and Pierce at



Groetjes uit nederland! I have been busy while on my Fulbright year teaching middle and high school in a small town called Bergen op Zoom in the Netherlands. It's been quite the adventure learning about the customs of my province, from trying regional pastries baked only in my city to celebrating local holidays by wearing traditional costumes made from window curtains and fur coats. I have been involved in the theater community by co-directing the school Christmas play and assistant directing a production of *Titus Andronicus* with a local Shakespeare troupe. I have also had the opportunity to do some traveling around the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, France, Croatia, and Morocco. And even overseas, elke dag is een geweldige dag om een wilde kat te zijn (every day is a great day to be a Wildcat)!



Outside the Peace Palace in
Den Hague, the Netherlands
Photo courtesy of Erin Lee, '17

Erin Lee

Since leaving UNH, I have been completing a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in the Palestinian Territories. This incredible opportunity has allowed me to work with students of all ages and proficiency levels in improving their English language skills both for everyday conversations and for professional development purposes. I have been lucky enough to combine my love for teaching with my passion for cross-cultural engagement and the Arabic language through this grant. From learning to dance dabke, a traditional Palestinian folk dance, to teaching English for business purposes courses for local humanitarian rights NGOs, it has been an exciting and rewarding journey that has informed my pedagogical goals, my professional aspirations, and my perspective as a whole. My mentorship at UNH from wonderful faculty in the English department, notably from my advisor Professor Alecia Magnifico and my thesis advisor Professor Dennis Britton, played a critical role in boosting my confidence to apply to and pursue this position abroad. I will be attending Johns Hopkins University for my masters degree in secondary English and special education upon returning to the U.S., and I am thrilled to continue working with underserved communities in the U.S. and abroad through teaching.



Photo courtesy of
Madison Pierce, '18

Maddie Pierce

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