



SET YOURSELF APART

ITALY

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ASPIRE

Senior year of high school I attended a Buffalo State Open House and came across a table advertising the IPDS. That afternoon I told my mom that I was going to go to Italy my junior year of college. Not only would I be able to go to a country I always wanted to visit, I would have the unique opportunity of teaching in a school abroad. As my junior year approached, I took every step to make sure I would travel to Italy. My dream of three years came true.

DISCOVER

My most memorable moment was our first night in Rome. After dinner we began to wander and eventually decided to find the Colosseum. We searched streets, poured over maps, and asked strangers for directions. Then I turned and saw...the Colosseum was waiting for us at the end of a road. **I got chills.** That's when it really hit me that I was in Italy. I love history and had learned so much about this ancient piece of architecture, and now I was seeing it in person - what an amazing feeling!

GROW

I have become more confident in myself since traveling. I am surer in my decisions and am more independent. This was my first trip from home and I learned just how strong and capable I can be on my own.



[Click to read Elizabeth's blog!](#)

***“This trip solidified the fact that I am meant to be a teacher.*”**

I was put in the shoes of a student who does not speak the dominant language, and now have a better understanding of what it's like for ELL students in my classroom.”

FAVORITE ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM

- Sunday lunch at Giovanna's homey home
- Amazing meals at the B & B in Torremaggiore
- Seeing and learning about historic Matera
- Talking with high school students about the U.S.
- Walking around the Colosseum and Palantine Hill (said to be the hill on which Rome was founded)