



Jenessa Sheridan

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PREPARATIONS

The pre-travel course allowed me to gradually learn a little about the culture, traditions and customs of Germany. I also gathered tips from friends who have traveled on how to pack, avoid pick-pocketing, and stay safe.

LANGUAGES

Prior to going abroad I was placed at Herman Badillo Bilingual Academy where I learned a lot about ELL students. The placement really benefited me when I was abroad as I better understood what it means to be a new student learning a new language. ***I've said it many times in many other places - I will never underestimate the challenges of ELL students ever again.*** I've learned so much about the challenges that come with being a minority in a school or a student who does not speak the native language. And I learned the importance of teachers creating a nurturing classroom environment.

MEMORIES

I formed many wonderful relationships on this trip. I got to know the seven amazing girls in my cohort, who I most likely would not have met otherwise, and I connected deeply with my host family. My favorite moments were cooking dinner with my hosts (especially teaching the kids to make pancakes!) and helping each other understand our different countries. On our last night we sat at the table talking about the memories we'd shared and making plans to see each other again.

CHANGES

I feel that I have grown as a student, future educator and person. For the first time in 20 years, I stepped out of my very small Buffalo bubble and learned so much about the world, different cultures and traditions, and how important it is to keep an open mind. I overcame a language barrier and feel so much more confident in myself.



Jenessa touring and with her host family.



I will forever encourage other students to participate in study abroad. The benefits are endless - it is an experience you will never forget and one that you will cherish forever. It is so worth the time and money!