

### **University of Denver**

Whilst I approached study abroad with the understanding that it would probably change me I didn't really give too much thought as to how. I have always been independent and eager to try new things, but studying abroad has given me a confidence in myself that I didn't have before. Not that I believe in myself more, but that I know when I do challenge myself and things go wrong I am able to cope and know that I will be able to hand the situation. By studying in the US I was able to take classes that I would never have even looked at in the UK. As a Geography student those classes made up the core of my credits, but by being able to take classes outside of my degree subject I found new interests in Art History and Politics (which I am hoping to put to use during my final year). I don't think that I would have found either of these subjects



had I not studied abroad. If I could give two pieces of advice, the first would be to try and find a balance between studying and having a good time in your first term. It is really easy to fall into the habit of either feeling like you're on holiday and your classes and grades don't matter, or focusing so much on your grades you don't take opportunities that arise. Whilst keeping up with the readings and on top of your grades is hugely important, so you don't feel overwhelmed when finals turn up it is also important to remember that what you get out of study abroad is about so much more than grades. My second piece of advice as cliché as it may sound, is to take every opportunity that you can, whether it is to meet new people, or travel somewhere, or to try skiing or swing dancing or take up a new subject for the first time. Although in trying to do this I have ended up on some day trips I really didn't want to be on, and failed on numerous occasions, I have also met amazing people, made friends for life, and travelled to places I have always wanted to visit, or didn't know I wanted to go.