

Knighly Adventures Abroad

Jasmine Chenault
Siem Reap & Phnom Penh, Cambodia

If I could do it over, I would have made a sort of study abroad "bucket list."

Major(s): Psychology & Philosophy

Years/Term Abroad: Summer 2014



Name of program and why you chose it: Council on International Educational Exchange Cambodian Summer Studies 2014 – I chose to study in Southeastern Asia because of an interest in my little known part Asian family history.

Describe the Housing Situation: I started in a guesthouse, stayed in a Cambodian family's home for a couple weeks, then ended at a local hotel.

Best Memory: Visiting the small village of Lovea during my first week. Though not completely comfortable at the time, a group of about 8-10 children played in water and spoke with members of my class. It was very comforting.

It made me grateful for the education Bellarmine is able to offer me. Many students in Cambodia are unable to afford to even receive primary or secondary educations.

Greatest Challenge: Remembering to always brush my teeth with bottled water! It was the little things that were forgettable.

Experiences with Culture Shock or Reverse Culture Shock: The people there are very fond of light colored skin because it is an indicator of higher social/class status. The students & I were not used to the amount of skin color compliments.

What you know now that you didn't know before going abroad: That I was more prepared than necessary. In trying to get ready for a "third world country" I had thought of more that could go wrong than right. I could have relaxed much more and saved the stress!

Go into your study abroad country with a list of sites you want to visit & new activities to try! It is easy to lose track of time in a new environment.



Fear of experiencing others is only a fear of knowing more about the self.