



## Johnny Thiel Milan, Italy





TRAVEL, TRAVEL, TRAVEL! See the world while you have the chance and experience as much of it as you possibly can.



If I could do it over, I would stay longer!

Majors: Communications & Sports Administration

Years/Term Abroad: Spring Semester 2017

Name of program and why you chose it: Universita Cattolica de Sacro Cuore International Exchange Program - I chose this program because I had always wanted to study abroad in Italy, and this program offered classes that were taught in Englis. This was perfect for me since I spoke no Italian going into the semester.

**Describe the Housing Situation:** I lived in a two bedroom apartment with three other students from the U.S. Our apartment had one bathroom and a kitchen and was about a five minute walk to the nearest metro station. The metro ride usually took about 30 minutes to get to school in the morning.

**Experiences with Culture Shock or Reverse Culture Shock:** My biggest experience of culture shock was how little Italians care about time and being on time.

How has this experience enriched your Bellarmine educational experience?

I now have a greater perspective on the world and understand that the world is much bigger than Louisville.

What do you know now that you didn't know before going abroad: Save up as much money as you can before you go! You are going to spend more than you thought so save up as much as you can.

**Greatest Challenge:** Definitely the language barrier. Not being able to speak Italian was definitely a challenge that I faced early and often while abroad. However, after my language class and being immersed in the language for a few weeks, I started to be able to say and pick up on simple things which ended up being a big help.

**Best Memory:** My group of friends and I spent our last weekend together on the beautiful beaches of the Amalfi Coast. This was my favorite place that I travelled to and an unforgettable memory.

Study abroad gave me friends and memories that I will cherish for a lifetime.