

**Major:** Education, with Theology minor

### Why did you choose to study in Rome?

Because it's Rome! I wanted to see the Pope and visit St. Peter's, and going with Dr. Rappé to study theology in Rome was a big motivation — everyone who has gone has really loved it!

### Academics:

We would have class in the morning, then go out to visit sites. It was a lot of fun to do the learning on-site. I could picture the context more easily and imagine how it looked, which made it more exciting. Everything I had learned in my Theology classes clicked because I was able to see the connections and the context of the history.

*“Take advantage of study abroad  
when it's available to you.*

*There are so many programs offered!  
It's possible to make it work with planning.”*

### Rome as a second home:

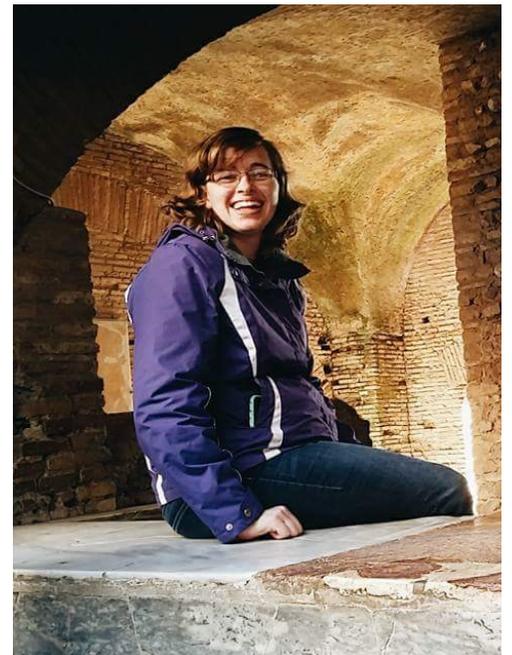
I learned directions easily from landmarks, and the people in Rome are pretty friendly so that made it more welcoming. The small shopkeepers especially were really understanding and good at trying to be helpful.

**Travelling:** I travelled by train to Assisi with a friend and we stayed in a medieval house which we found online. They had a spiral staircase that went up to a rooftop patio. We were able to walk around the whole city. The Basilica of St. Clare and the Basilica of St. Francis are at opposite ends of the city, which we enjoyed visiting and exploring. This served as a nice break halfway through the program in Rome.

**Biggest Cultural Difference:** Dinner was more of a social event, and the food was so good! When people went out to a bar, it was more for the social aspect of it. For example, one bar we went to called the Public House had more of a coffee shop feel.

### Favorite Landmark:

St. Peter's was my favorite basilica, which I visited four times. Ostia Antica was also really cool to visit, to see how the ancient ports played a part in spreading Christianity. We got to see the ancient shopfronts and where the ancient street would have been.



Jill sitting atop the “bar” at Ostia Antica, the ancient port of Rome