

**Major:** Communications with a PR focus



## Why did you choose to study in Rome ?

I wanted to study Theology in Rome. From what I had read, Italy is a very family-oriented culture and I'm a family-oriented person, so I was attracted to experience a different culture that would have some values similar to my own.

## Academics:

We got to see a 1st century church which was totally different than the U.S. Seeing where history was made was interesting because, in history, not everything is fully known, so there are places that were open to interpretation and self-reflection.



Lauren in front of the Vatican.

*“First, figure out what’s holding you back. I weighed the pro’s and con’s and recognized that this was a once in a lifetime experience. Then, I was happily surprised when I could take almost a month off to study abroad in Rome. ”*

## Rome as a Second Home:

I loved it. I didn't want to come home. In Rome, if I wanted to go somewhere, I'd just go. I felt more freedom because I could just walk anywhere. By the time we left, I felt I knew the city better than Milwaukee.

## Volunteering in Rome:

I have been interested in the possibility of working for a non-profit, and Claudio was a good mentor to have because he has worked for Sant' Egidio for so long. Seeing who Sant' Egidio helped and the huge impact they have despite the fact that they have few resources was very inspiring.

**Most memorable experience:** We went to the Church of St. Paul outside the Walls where the beauty of the church really captivated me. When I was there, I was overwhelmed by the feeling of being close to where St. Paul had been.