

#studyabroadbecause



Juliana Broste travelingjules.com

I never dreamed of a life of travel, but it found me. I was lucky to have friends who were adamant about studying abroad. When I inquired about the opportunity through my study abroad office, they encouraged me to apply. At the time, I didn't understand why it would be the right choice for me, I was very happy where I was at. Why change a thing? It was a big risk to choose the unknown over what I was comfortable with.

I was fortunate to receive a scholarship to be an exchange student, and it was my ticket to a whole new world. My semester abroad in Sydney, Australia, was the first time I traveled overseas. I lived in a flat next to the beach, and I got to wake up every day looking at the ocean. In school, I made friends with Aussies and loved discovering our cultural differences. I joined a few clubs. Having never lived near water, I learned how to wakeboard. I also coached the first-ever American cheerleader / dance team at my school, bringing an American tradition overseas.

One of my roommates was a passionate traveler, and together, we had some of the most amazing adventures during our school holidays. With few plans or reservations, we road-tripped up the coast with a guidebook in hand. We discovered an island with no roads that could only be explored by a 4x4, driving on the beach during low tide. We stumbled upon a treehouse backpacker lodge and found mystical mud pools. I even got to hold a koala at the Australia Zoo. My time overseas challenged me to step outside of my comfort zone. It wasn't easy, being far from home, making new friends, adjusting to a new culture, learning my way around a new city, taking my entire life to another continent. But I did it. And, it was more rewarding than I could have ever imagined.

Studying Abroad opens your mind. It gives you a whole new perspective on the world. Everyday life becomes exciting and new. You realize there isn't just one way of doing something. You challenge yourself. You learn about yourself. You discover just how capable you are. You learn about the world. You learn that despite our differences, in so many ways, we are all the same. The world is the biggest classroom you will find. It's important to take yourself out of your comfort zone to experience what the world has to offer. Study abroad changed my life, in the best possible way.

Juliana Broste, "Traveling Jules," is a Travel Video Journalist, an award-winning producer, writer, shooter, editor, and on-camera host. Her video blog captures her adventures across the globe.

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