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## CRYSTAL CARTER



Program: University Studies Abroad Consortium

College: University of Nevada, Reno

Major: Human Development and Family Studies

Country: Italy

My experience while abroad was like nothing I could have imagined. Every moment felt like a dream. I spent my time soaking up the beauty Reggio Emilia, Italy had to offer. I attempted to overcome my fear of pigeons by walking through piazzas with my head up and even holding them in front of the Duomo in Milan. None of these worked, and I am still deathly afraid of those creatures. But the experiences and memories I made with my friends were definitely worth the screams and nightmares.

It took a while for me to register that I was in one of the most beautiful and historic countries in the world. I ate gelato at least twice a day, just in case I woke up from this dream. Also, I had a goal of trying every gelato shop in town (too many to even handle to be honest, but I got pretty close). I never grew tired of pizza, and I didn't even know architecture could be so breathtaking.

I jumped for Joy at the Colosseum. I waited nearly two hours for the "Best Pizza in the World" (*Eat, Pray, Love*). My heart skipped at the sight of the Sistine Chapel, and no matter where I stood I never ceased to be amazed by an Italian sunset.

I am so grateful for Reggio and all of its people. I found some of my best friends while in Italy, and we continue to talk each day. I have grown personally and culturally. I learned patience and understanding from the locals wherever we went, remaining patient and understanding while I struggled with my broken Italian. They taught me how to slow down, grab a cafe with friends, and that not everything has to be "go, go, go." My courses challenged me and made me a better, patient, and more welcoming teacher for my future students. However, in the end, none of this would have been possible without the help and generosity of your foundation. I am eternally grateful for your kindness and your faith in me. Grazie mille (Thank you so much!)

Respectfully,  
Crystal Carter