

Welcome Prospective Study Abroad Students!

My name is Tanya Kanchana and I am a first generation Senior at Chapman University studying Business Finance with a minor in Sociology. In the spring of 2015, I embarked on a 5 month journey to Newcastle, Australia for a semester abroad.

Chapman's study abroad program is something that sparked my interest in the school when I first toured the campus. My campus tour guide explained that paying for a semester abroad is essentially paying the school the same tuition for the regular semester, plus any other fees for travel and leisure. It was an idea that was always in the back of mind but never knew would become a reality, especially with a family who emigrated from Thailand and was unfamiliar and uneasy with the process.

Aside from attending school in Southern California, I have also lived here my entire life and have not been away from home for more than 2 weeks at a time. I wanted to go abroad to experience independence, to be forced into out-of-comfort zone situations, and to open my mind and heart to difference cultures instead of being consumed by a small bubble of one culture in which I had always lived.

Taking that leap of faith and getting on that plane with absolutely no family or friends was the most valuable decision I have made in my college career. I returned with newfound self-efficacy, knowing that if I could thrive in an unfamiliar setting, I could thrive in any situation. Adapting to Australian public transportation, idioms, classroom settings, and overall way of life fostered my open-mindedness to the idea of living and even working in a foreign country in the future!

The resources and opportunities Chapman offered gave me no reason as to why I should not study abroad! I stopped by the Center for Global Education numerous times throughout the year and the staff was extremely helpful with the whole process. They truly simplified the long paperwork process and put my mind to ease. I enjoyed my abroad experience so much that I now work as Peer Advisor for the Center for Global Education!

Those 5 months I spent abroad, being fully immersed in Australian culture, really added substance to my perspective to life in general. My experience taught me to critically think about and question societal norms, to be more understanding, and to assertively go after any dreams and hopes for the future. Most importantly, I found a craving for exploring more of our world and discovered how to find peace and happiness in any situation. If the opportunity to travel isn't a good enough excuse to go abroad, I highly recommend doing it for your own personal growth- you never what adventures await!





