Describe any global or intercultural experiences you have had.

One major intercultural experience I have had is going to France and living with an exchange family for 2 weeks. At my high school Cary Academy, everyone had to take a language and then at in sophomore year you would be part of an exchange program with students from a country that speaks the language you are learning. Because I chose to learn French, I was paired with a student named Theophile in Tours, France. First, Theophile came to live with us for two weeks and we showed him around Raleigh and things we like to do, and then at the end of sophomore year, our French class went to Tours, France to live with our exchange students for two weeks. While Theophile and the other students were in class, our teachers had planned for things for us to do to show us the rich culture and history of France. We went to see many castles, museums, and ate in numerous different French restaurants. I thought it was so cool to learn all about the history of France through these magnificent castles and museums containing ancient relics. We visited this garden that had the most intricate grass patterns like a maze, but it was meant to have symbolism of four different types of love. One thing that was really interesting to me about French culture was the food. When we ate in restaurants, the food was amazing and I got to try so many things that I’ve never had before. However, the really interesting cultural difference was in the dinners I had with my host family. First, the dinner always has multiple stages that split up the meal. They always start off with bread and they always made sure that they were never out of bread. The bread in France was really good so I didn’t mind that. Then, they sometimes have an appetizer like escargot before the main meal. For the main meal, it was considered rude to not finish everything on your plate, so I had to make sure I tried a small amount of everything to make sure I like it before getting more. We also never had any leftovers, which was definitely different from in my family sometimes having leftovers multiple nights in a row. Additionally, only water was allowed at the dinner table, and soda wasn’t really ever offered in France at home or at many restaurants. After the main course, they always brought out the cheese to be eaten by itself or with more bread, followed by dessert. They had a lot of pastry-based desserts, but I particularly liked the macaroons and tiramisu. At the end of the two weeks, our French class got to see Paris for 3 days, and we went and saw all the famous buildings and monuments like the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, le Louvre, and the Arc de Triomphe. It was truly an unforgettable experience.

Word Count: 486

Why did you choose your particular program and what personal objectives do you hope to achieve by studying abroad?

I chose this particular program for studying abroad in Silicon Valley because I like the concept of finishing the minor and the internship in one semester at the entrepreneurship capital of the world. When I first learned of the program, I was really intrigued by the idea of, after taking Econ 101 and 125 to gain a baseline for entrepreneurship, studying away and taking the rest of the courses and an internship all at once. By doing this, I can truly immerse myself into the entrepreneurship mindset and have everything I do build off each other, focusing my attention instead of splitting it with general education classes and my computer science major. I have liked taking a variety of different classes in my past semesters, however, one of the main reasons I am interested in this program as opposed to other study abroad opportunities is for the combination of the internship and the location. By doing an internship, I won’t just learn from the classes I’m taking, but learn by doing which is core to the entrepreneurship principles I learned in Econ 125. Everything I learn in class will be able to be directly applied to my work in the internship, and I won’t just be studying entrepreneurship to pass a test, but to actually see it happening and use it in the internship. Additionally, the internship is in the hottest spot for entrepreneurship in the US, Silicon Valley. I will get to take full advantage of the culture that is strongly embedded into the heart of the city and not just hear about the examples of successful companies, but actually be able to visit the iconic companies such as Tesla, Twitter, and Google. This program sounds amazing through the curriculum, internship, and perfect location and if I get in, I will want to utilize everything that it has to offer and return with an incredible amount of knowledge and experience that will help me achieve my goals in any future endeavors.

Word Count : 332

What academic objectives do you hope to achieve on your chosen program and what types of credit do you wish to earn? How does this fit into your plan to graduate on time?

As I have chosen the study abroad program Honors Entrepreneurship Seminar in Silicon Valley, I hope to earn all the credits necessary to complete the Entrepreneurship minor including the internship. I’ve already taken the intro required classes Econ 101 and Econ 125, and on this trip I hope that I will succeed and pass the remaining courses required for the minor. I did well in both of the previous courses, coming up with an innovative app in Econ 125 and getting an A in Econ 101 despite being a very hard class. I’ll have to work hard to make sure that despite being in a new location and having to work for an internship, I don’t fall behind in the classes and ask for help if I need it. Beyond just passing the classes, I’m really interested in learning more about entrepreneurship and moving on to more advanced things. I want to make sure I utilize the opportunities with the location and the internship, so that I am applying my learning and getting an experience that amplifies my knowledge and prepare me if I pursue my own startup after college. I want to not just know the fundamentals from being taught by a professor or reading in a textbook, but from actually doing it and seeing the process in action. I’m really excited for the internship. I have been planning ever since I found out about this program so that by going on this program, I’ll still be able to graduate on time. I’ve taken many of the required computer science classes for my Computer Science BS major already, as well as the general educations classes I need. The remaining classes that I need I will be able to fit in senior year without overloading my schedule, and it helps that I took a summer class to finish a computer science requirement. This program fits great with my schedule and I would love to go on this amazing learning experience.

Word Count: 330