

# BAILEY BUCKLEY

Undergraduate, English Education  
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## NEW APPRECIATIONS

Through the English Ed program I became fascinated by the idea of education as a collaborative, experimental field where the key to being a great educator does not lie in textbooks or lecture halls, but in the frequent exchange of thoughts and ideas. **Traveling, living with a host family, and interacting with children from around the world changed my perspective on education in a profound and permanent way.** One of the most valuable takeaways is my newfound appreciation for the difficulty language learners experience. I thought I already understood this, but nothing compares to living the experience. English Language Learners in the U.S. have to cope with similar struggles, but don't have the luxury of leaving after three weeks. I respect the strength it takes for these students to function in the classroom and believe every educator should put themselves in a similar situation: in order to best serve our students, we must be able to empathize with them and see their point of view.

## NEW FRIENDSHIPS

In addition to growing professionally, I became more confident and adventurous as a human being. I did things I never could have imagined: taught a lesson in English to German students, went paragliding over the Swiss Alps, and tried every food I encountered. I also forged strong bonds with my cohort. The journey came with its challenges -- homesickness, language barriers, exhaustion -- but these struggles only made our connection stronger. We were able to support one another, smooth over conflicts, and make each other laugh when we felt overwhelmed. I was anxious about going across the world with near strangers, but have become part of a second family.

**YOU WILL CHALLENGE YOURSELF, OVERCOME OBSTACLES,  
LEARN NEW THINGS, AND MEET INCREDIBLE PEOPLE.  
THE SIGHTS, SOUNDS, TASTES, AND SMELLS WILL  
STAY IN YOUR MIND AND HEART FOREVER.**

