



SET YOURSELF APART

ITALY

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TEACH & STUDY

I was eager to participate at the elementary school in Torremaggiore. We taught English at various grade levels and created bilingual books to help the children make connections between their native language and English. I learned directly how to teach *through* a language barrier so that academic content is comprehensible. I also assisted our professor with a research study to determine the effects of bilingual text on student comprehension and vocabulary.

EXPLORE

We traveled to several cities including Rome, Matera, Florence and Sienna. I discovered so much about a culture unfamiliar to me and learned about the historical influences that shaped it. I met countless people who wanted to share their way of life and learned firsthand that there are many ways to experience the world, outside of my own views and habits.

GROW

Because of the costs, I never thought I could participate in a study away program, but I spoke with my professors and learned how to find funding. **Have an open mind and explore your options.** The IPDS trip to Italy will always be the highlight of my college experience. I appreciated the chance to immerse myself in a new culture.



Ashley with students at San Giovanni Bosco elementary school (above left & bottom) and on the streets of Florence (above right).



[Click to read Ashley's blog!](#)

"I will never forget the love and appreciation the students showed at our goodbye parade. It was evident that our short time there really made an impact on the community."

FAVORITE ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM

- Learning to cope while lost in a new city and with no knowledge of the local language.
- Exploring the historical monuments of Rome.
- Having meals with the elementary school teachers.
- Overcoming a fear of heights climbing 463 steps of the Duomo di Firenze.
- Seeing how excited the students felt when I understood their use of the English language.
- Discovering a new appreciation for arts and nature.