Deirdre Heavey Spends a Semester Abroad in Spain

by: Jana Clark

Junior Deirdre Heavey, a Communication major with a concentration in Journalism, studied abroad in Barcelona, Spain this semester. She was a student at the University of Abat Oliba CEU, a LaSallian University with a large international student program. Unfortunately, her semester aboard had to be cut short due to COVID-19. Her program included courses such as International Law, The Christian Message, Spanish, Geopolitics and Globalization, and Journalistic Production.

Study abroad opportunities allow students to step outside their comfort zones and immerse themselves into new cultures. Students are able to grow both personally and academically, as well as change their perspective of the world around them.

Heavey says the most rewarding aspect of her study abroad experience was being able "to learn about the Spanish and European perspective on and approach to international politics."

However, this is not Heavey's first time abroad. During the summer of 2018, she traveled to Bangkok, Thailand to intern at the digital magazine, Thailand Tatler.

According to Heavey, studying abroad is a thrilling experience, as "there is never a dull moment–from shopping, museums, art, architecture, culture, food, nightlife, beach, walking, sites, and views." Studying abroad has allowed her to experience the world in new ways and meet people she would not have otherwise met. She says, "Everyone with an opportunity to study abroad should definitely do so."

The Study Abroad office at Manhattan College offers students in all disciplines the chance to study for either a two-week intersession, a month, or a whole semester abroad. In the past, the Communication Department has offered study abroad trips to a variety of destinations such as Florence, Scandinavia, and India. This summer the department was set to offer a summer abroad course to Rome, but had to cancel due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The courses the department generally offers as study abroad classes include Transnational Mass Communication, Intercultural

Communication, and most recently, a Communication Internship that was to be a part of the program in Rome.