

Study Abroad Scholarship Essay

I was a very shy child. I hid behind my mother at family social gatherings and my cheeks would turn red hot when the teacher called on me. Kids at school would ask me if I even knew how to talk.

I had been “the shy girl” my whole life. That is until I joined Student Council in high school as an extracurricular to put on my college resume. Little did I know that the group I only joined to look good for colleges would change my communication skills forever.

I was thrown in head first to an organization that made me talk. I had no other option. I attended conferences where I had to introduce myself and present ideas to students from other schools around Michigan. I even found myself taking on leadership positions where I learned to delegate tasks, get students from different backgrounds to work on a common goal and call people I did not know on the telephone. I had to constantly work on and improve these communication skills that came so easily for others. Student Council pulled me out of my shell regardless of how much I resisted.

Graduation rolled around and I already knew that I wanted to study communication in college. I had grown to love the very thing that caused me so much anxiety as a child.

Now I am a sophomore at MSU and I adore every second of it. Student Council helped me develop some useful skills but I am always finding new opportunities to stretch my communication comfort zone by participating in group projects in class and even holding an executive board position for the Undergraduate Communication Association.

My next big feat: Study Abroad.

Spending the summer in the United Kingdom studying mass media will assist me academically and personally. It is important for me to take advantage of as much as I can in my four short

years at this amazing university. Study Abroad will allow me to meet and work with people from other countries, partake in a global conversation of academia, and be involved in one of the fastest growing programs at MSU. I will be able to apply what I learn about international mass media practices to the classes I take for a public relations specialization and the people I meet on the trip will be valuable contacts for my future as a professional. I also hope to bring back what I learn to improve the Undergraduate Communication Association and share my experiences with its members.

On a personal level Study Abroad will be an opportunity for me to challenge myself and push my comfort boundaries. When I look back on my life to the things that shaped me, I know that my opportunity to participate in Study Abroad will accompany my high school Student Council experience. I am constantly growing as a person and with each step I move farther away from that shy girl I once was.