

Why I Wish to Study in Rome

In my youth, I had the privilege to travel throughout Italy with my parents. In seeing structures like the Colosseum and the Roman Forum, I recognized its importance, but had limited knowledge of their architectural significance. Now as a student at the University of Minnesota, I am excited for the opportunity to return with my newfound knowledge and greater appreciation for ancient Roman architecture. Logistically, a summer abroad fits well into my academic calendar as I have two years remaining as an undergraduate. Experience-wise, living, studying, and interning in Rome presents an opportunity to apply my current design skills, while also learning from a culture other than my own. An internship abroad could give me the tools I need for future internships back home and help me to generate new ideas in my studio work.

Last summer, I took my first class at the Twin Cities campus for a liberal arts literature credit. I walked into the room and sat down as one of three white students in a class of thirty. I grew up in a small town with people similar to myself, and the same could be said for my first two years of college. So being in this classroom was the most valuable experience I could have had thus far, probably more valuable than the class material itself. It reminded me why I chose to receive a liberal arts education at the University of Minnesota, because making connections with students from other backgrounds is exactly what I want my tuition money to go towards. I am hoping for a similar study abroad experience, not only from a cultural standpoint but also academically. I want to expand my ability to go beyond surface-level observations, like I was taught in my summer course. When my concrete, analytical brain overpowers, I hope to draw from my experiences and to gain inspiration in the studio. I anticipate challenges while studying abroad. But if I do not face any challenges, I will not have gained valuable experience. I am open

to new cultures and experiences, and whomever I come across, I want to learn from them. One can never be too out-going in college, and although initial interactions may seem forced or insignificant, it could lead to something valuable.