

Milan, Italy Summer 2018

By: Kendra Zimmerman

Choosing to study abroad in Italy for a month was the best decision that I have made in my college career and maybe even in my life. My choice whether to go or not was easy. I have always wanted to travel but have never gotten to opportunity to so this summer was my first out of the United States. Being able to take classes and experience things not many other people will be able to say they have experienced on their road to becoming a teacher appealed to me greatly.

While abroad, I took two classes through the college of education here at ISU, TCH 110 and EAF 228. All of the work for both of these classes was online but we did go into the American School of Milan (ASM) two-three days a week during our month stay in Milan. It was amazing being able to see how the school system worked in a different country other than the United States. All of the teachers that worked at ASM were incredibly kind and ready to ask any questions me or my classmates had about teaching, teaching abroad, living in a foreign country, or just life in general. The knowledge I gained on this trip is something that I will never be exposed to again. Studying abroad really jump started my interest in teaching abroad and has really made me think about what kind of teacher I want to be and where.

It was not all school work while we were abroad either. since we only did observing in the classroom two-three days a week, that gave us multiple free days in order to explore not only Italy but the rest of Europe too. Personally the only countries I explored were Italy and Poland, but some of my classmates went to England, France, Amsterdam, Switzerland, and many more. It is incredibly easy to travel by train and even by plane in Europe so the options were endless on what we could see and experience. Before I left for the trip, many of my friends and family asked if I was nervous to be jetting off the live in a different country where I did not know a single

person and the answer was always no. I was so excited for new experiences and to be submerged in a new culture that I knew nothing about before going. I learned so much about the Italian culture and the people that lived there. I would advise anyone to take advantage of studying abroad and not just for a month. I was able to do a lot of traveling and exploring new places but I can only imagine what one could accomplish in a whole semester.

