

HONORS STUDENTS GO GLOBAL

KROSNO, POLAND, GATEWAY TO EUROPE

CLEDIA CABERLON



Cledia Caberlon in Krosno, Poland.

When I came to college I had two goals before graduation. The first goal was that I wanted to be a double major, and the second was that I wanted to study abroad. During my first semester junior year I realized that although I was already a double major, I had not looked into places to study abroad. I had, however, been saving money every summer because I knew that it was something that I wanted to do before I graduated. I then started looking at options through the International Programs Office. Since I am an Italian citizen I decided to apply for the Florence program. I was sure I was going to Italy for my second semester.

When I mentioned this exciting plan to my friends, two of them decided to come with me, which was much better than my original plan of going by myself. The next step was going to the Financial Aid Office and figuring out the cost of the program. As they broke down the cost of living and tuition, I almost started crying; my dream was being taken away from me. All of my savings were not enough; I feared I would not be able to afford



WSU students visit Paris, France, during their semester in Poland.

studying abroad. That is when the International Programs staff offered me a more affordable option: through an exchange program with WSU, I could attend Krosno State Col-

lege in Poland, pay tuition and fees to Westfield State, and enjoy free room and board at Krosno. I originally did not know much about Poland, but the cost was so affordable that I would actually save money from studying abroad! Thanks to the exchange rate and the cost of living in Poland, \$1 triples its worth there, so my savings would go a long way. It was the perfect program. The next step was convincing my friends to join me in Poland instead of Florence. It required a lot of talking, but eventually they were in!

I had the best time of my life in Poland. The people are seriously the nicest people I have ever met. Also I made some of my best friends there. I miss it everyday; it is absolutely a beautiful country, with amazing food and drinks. The meal plan that the school gives us is at a local restaurant, which is to die for! The locals are excited to meet people from the United States, and we even got to teach some English conversation classes while we were there. Finally with all the money we saved we went to 6 other countries, spending 3-5 days in each country. We went to Hungary, Italy, Holland,



Old Town, Krosno.

France, England, and Greece. We also spent three weekends in Krakow, and we constantly visited Rzeszow, which is a big city just one hour from Krosno. The last month in Poland we could not even talk about leaving because it would make us so upset. Going to Poland was the best experience I could ever expect from my study abroad experience. I would not change anything about it. I encourage students considering studying abroad to research the program at Krosno State. I cannot wait to go back.

Cledia is a senior Psychology and Ethnic and Gender Studies double major from Lowell, MA.

Interested in broadening your horizons?

The International Programs Office can answer your questions about Study Abroad and National Exchange Programs.

For more information, visit their office in Parenzo 130 (Lobby) or email them at ipo@westfield.ma.edu.

Start planning your Fall 2015 schedule now. Early Registration Advising takes place from February 17 - March 24.

Early registration for Honors students is March 25.

Read your email for important information and updates about Priority Registration.

Stop by the Honors Center to check out upcoming Honors course offerings.