



MODERN LANGUAGE STUDIES ABROAD

MLSA Ambassador Profile

We kindly request that reach out to our Ambassadors only if you are considering participating in the program.

Name: Shannon Barnes
E-mail address: slbarn13@louisville.edu
School: University of Louisville
Program: MLSA at the University of Costa Rica
Session: Summer 2
Courses: Graduate Level

✓ **What led you to study abroad? Why did you choose your MLSA?**

I decided to study abroad because I wanted the opportunity to experience the language I'm studying in a country where it is spoken regularly-in other words, I wanted immersion so that I could improve my Spanish!! I chose to study in San Jose because of the opportunity to live with a host family. I knew that this would be a great opportunity to speak Spanish all the time. It was an added bonus that my host family was so patient with me and willing to help me learn from my mistakes!

✓ **What was the most memorable/meaningful aspect of your time abroad?**

The most meaningful aspect of my study abroad experience was having the opportunity to meet my host family's extended family. I met their children, their grandchildren...everyone! I felt very much a part of their family. No one cared that I was from the United States. They just wanted to know more about me and make me feel at home!

✓ **What would you recommend to students considering studying abroad, especially to your country/program?**

My best advice is that you go for it!! If studying abroad is something you really want to do, you have to make it happen! Look for scholarships and other ways to pay for the trip. You would be surprised at the number of resources available to help you make your dreams of studying abroad a reality. With a little bit of research, you may find that there are lots of resources available at your own university!



Isla Tortuga

The first image is from an excursion to Isla Tortuga. We traveled via catamaran to get to an island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, where we spent the day snorkeling and relaxing on the beach. We also ate lots of wonderful food!

La Universidad de Costa Rica

The campus of the Universidad de Costa Rica is beautiful! It made having classes there much easier! ☺ This photo was taken as I was walking up the steps to the third floor of the building. Because the staircases are exposed to nature, there are always wonderful views such as these!





El Volcán Arenal

During the month abroad in Costa Rica, we were given a long weekend to go explore some part of the country outside of San José. I traveled with some other friends from the program to La Fortuna. We went hiking during the trip to La Fortuna in a national park called Arenal 1968. This is a photo of me from the hike. I was standing in front of the volcano.