

**FRANK'S MAJOR(S):** economics and LAMP with French and psychology minors

**YEAR/TERM ABROAD:** spring 2004

**REASON YOU CHOSE THIS PROGRAM:** I've been to Paris once before, and I instantly fell in love with it. Once I realized that studying abroad was an option, I knew I wanted to do it. I definitely wanted something urban. It was also a wonderful opportunity to practice French and to be in an environment where there were opportunities to speak English.

frankalexander

Paris, France



— On one of his many excursions of the city, Frank Alexander takes a break in front of the Cathedral of Notre Dame. Besides spending time exploring Paris, Alexander also ventured outside the country, traveling to Britain, Ireland, Spain, Italy, Germany, The Netherlands, Czech Republic and Greece.

**FAVORITE CLASSES:** French Cinema and Political Economy in EU; Language classes were fun - IES did a good job.

**DESCRIBE THE HOUSING SITUATION:** I lived in an apartment with a family in the city, 15th district. They had three kids, two boys and a girl, ages eight, six and four. I lived on a separate floor - the top floor with a wonderful view. The family was very nice, and I still keep in touch.

**BEST MEMORY:** I have so many great memories, but I would have to say the ability to travel every single day stood out. The city was so immense; I still didn't cover it all in four months: the museums, the parks, the nightlife. It was so great to be able to go to classes and then after class, visit some place new. Each day was different.

**BIGGEST SURPRISE:** It was kind of what I expected. People tend to stereotype the French as unfriendly. I found that not to be true. If you keep an open mind and treat people as you would want to be treated, you'll find they are very nice and hospitable.

**WHAT YOU KNOW NOW THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE GOING**

**ABROAD:** The whole trip helped me grow up - to enjoy everyday and to be responsible for myself. I had people to fall back on, but in the end, everything came back to me. I learned a great deal about myself.

"It was an easy choice for me to study abroad. All throughout college, I was looking forward to doing it. *campus is wonderful, but there's nothing wrong with exploring another place.*"

**ADVICE TO FUTURE STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS:** Talk to the French. It really broadens your horizons of other cultures. It's such a neat opportunity to meet people from other cultures; to pass that up, it would almost be a shame.