

lizbarkowski

Lima, Peru

Liz's MAJOR(s): anthropology and psychology with a Spanish minor and certificate in Latin American studies

YEAR/TERM ABROAD: Academic year 2001-2002

REASON YOU CHOSE THIS PROGRAM: I did a presentation for Machu Picchu for a Spanish class, which got me interested in Peru itself. I wasn't really thinking about studying abroad, but I had friends who got me interested. Being an anthropology major, I was interested in a program that I could explore sites. I also wanted to improve my Spanish skills.



Liz Barkowski stops for a moment during her visit to Machu Picchu, "the Lost City of the Incas," citing it as her best memory during the year she spent studying abroad. Barkowski appreciated seeing the sites that she learned about in the classes she took at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú.

FAVORITE CLASSES: Andean ethnography, temas de historia, gender relations, and Peruvian archaeology

BIGGEST SURPRISE: The city is more flat and spread out than cities in the US. There's no towering buildings, and it's not like here where cities have a downtown and subdivisions surrounding it. Also, the poverty is more obvious than I thought it would be.

WHAT I WISH I KNEW BEFORE I LEFT: I wish I would've been able to talk to someone who went before to know what it would be like, but there weren't any former participants still around. But the orientation in Lima was really helpful. They paired you up with Peruvian students, "Amigos PUCP" they called it, and it

was a good way to meet people and have a resource. Through this, I made friends who I hung out with during my time abroad.

GOING ABROAD VS. STAYING ON CAMPUS, DISCUSS: I would really suggest going abroad, not only for the language skills, but the experience itself. Just to know what it's like elsewhere — it's eye-opening. It's a well-rounded learning experience.

COMPLETE THIS SENTENCE: IF I COULD DO IT OVER, I WOULD ... I can't think of anything I would do differently. I went everywhere I wanted to travel to ... I stayed an extra semester. I had such a good time.

"I could tell how much my Spanish skills improved by looking at my class notes from the beginning of the year and comparing them to the end. *I could see how much more I understood.*"

ADVICE TO FUTURE STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS: Choose a program in a country that interests you but also look at the classes they offer. See what fits your academic needs. Don't be afraid to speak another language; people were very helpful and very understanding. Finally, just don't be afraid of the unknown.