

sarahjarvis

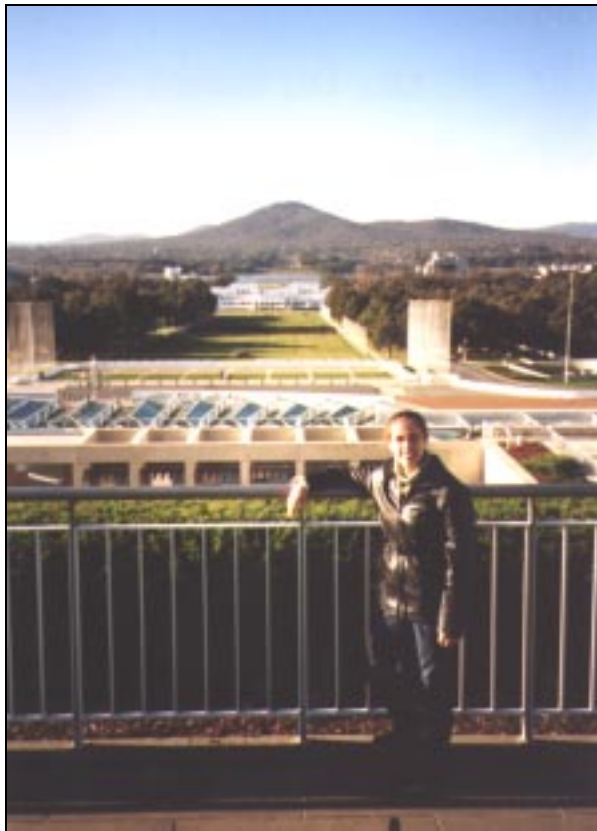
Canberra, Australia

SARAH'S MAJOR(S): sociology with a French minor

YEAR/TERM ABROAD: fall 2003

REASON YOU CHOSE THIS PROGRAM: I was looking for something that would get major requirements, and it just felt right. I spent a lot of time looking through the notebooks in the Information Center. It sounded the most interesting.

FAVORITE CLASSES: Electric Citizens-Rise of the Mass Media



In the middle of Canberra, Sarah Jarvis stands on top of the New Parliament House, which looks out on the Old Parliament House, the Anzac Parade and the War Memorial. One of Jarvis' best memories was staying at a friend's beach house and playing on the beach, canoeing and barbecuing with a group of friends.

DESCRIBE THE HOUSING SITUATION: I lived in a residential college with about 180 people. I had a single room. I absolutely loved it. There were only five or six other Americans; the rest were Australians. We had set meal times and they had bus bar crawls, so you got to meet tons of people. I met some of my best friends living in that college.

GREATEST CHALLENGE: Leaving. I sat in the Sydney airport and just cried. I cried most of the way home, but my experience was a little different in that I met my fiance while I was there (we were engaged after I came back home). I'm going back there for graduate school.

BIGGEST SURPRISE: How easy it was to meet people here and how easy it was to form these deep friendships.

WHAT I WISH I KNEW BEFORE I LEFT: I would suggest to leave early and travel around a bit.

GOING ABROAD VS. STAYING ON CAMPUS, DISCUSS: Go if you even remotely want to go. DO IT. I don't know if anyone's ever regretted going. Don't ever pass it up. There's so much out there to offer. If you go to Australia, go during the second semester (fall semester-IU); you get two springs out of the deal. Actually, go there for a year.

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

ABROAD: I know now that if I set my mind to do something, I can do it. I can be independent; I don't need to hold my parents' hand. I know a lot more about myself and what it means to be an American and what that entails.

"Enjoy Canberra for what it has to offer. It was the best six months of my life. I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world. And if you want to go back, do it. *Don't let anyone talk you out of it.*"

ADVICE TO FUTURE STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS: Know that perceptions of yourself, your country, your school will change. Go home with your Australian friends. Drive while you're there; it's a lot of fun. Beware of the college meals, sometimes the meat is questionable.