



SET YOURSELF APART

# CHILE

## Alexia Matos-Mateo

*Undergraduate Student, Criminal Justice*  
Santiago, Chile - May/June 2015

### EXPLORE

Through this experience I learned the true meaning of the advice to “appreciate the small things in life.” I learned that we, as humans of a working society, need to be more in tune with ourselves and our fellow people. We are often too caught up in social media that we do not initiate and appreciate personal interaction. Most importantly, I learned that humility is key to life.

### STUDY

I am inspired to become an immigration lawyer/FBI agent and a 2nd lieutenant in the Army. Although I won't be going into teacher education, the Chile experience was beneficial because it required me to interact with people who don't speak my language. The resources I acquired will help me succeed with English language learners and to feel compassionate about the hard work needed to acquire a new language.

### GROW

The first weeks of college consist of so much prep work and presentations. I paid close attention to the charts and numbers and noticed that my race/ethnicity was highly unrepresented in study abroad programs. Three years later I broke through barriers to show that those unrepresented numbers can beat the odds and succeed at international study and travel.

### ADVICE

Be open-minded. **STEP OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE.**  
Live life and appreciate the small things.

[Click to read Alexia's blog!](#)



***“Studying abroad has opened and touched so many dimensions of my heart.”***

#### Favorite Aspects of the Program

- Trekking the Andes and getting over the fear of heights that I never even knew I had...until that day!
- Making pasta from scratch with Universidad Mayor friends
- Taking classes at Universidad Mayor
- Horseback riding in the Andes