Elaine Benke // Germany

Why should CBS students go abroad?
CBS students should go abroad so they can experience different cultures! I think that the value of learning in a new and unfamiliar environment cannot be overstated, because we get so used to being in the same style of classes with the same people for such a long period of time. Learning to step outside of one's comfort zone is important for personal and academic growth.

What advice do you have for CBS students looking to study abroad?
Find something that interests you, even if it isn't necessarily science-related. You can get a lot of liberal education requirements completed abroad. You also don't have to study abroad for a full semester. I was not able to plan a full semester abroad, so I took time during the summer to experience what I believe is an integral part of the college experience.

What was your most memorable experience?
My most memorable experience was sitting on the river Spree with my sister. We went to that spot a lot and were able to soak up the environment and culture. There were always musicians playing, and we could see the Berlin Cathedral across the river.

What did you learn or gain from your time abroad?
I learned how to interact with people from another culture. I also learned about the culture of Berlin, and how the 20th century shaped how the city lives today.