



CBS Adventures Abroad

Leanne Zhang // Kenya

Why should CBS students go abroad?

I think that CBS students should go abroad to gain new perspectives on the way that science is both conducted and experienced in different contexts. We learn to think very objectively about biology, but the process of science is always influenced by the personal history and lived experiences of the scientists. The questions of where biological research happens, who is in charge and who is vulnerable, and what research benefits happen where are questions we don't talk about in class, but are crucially important to the field. Especially for CBS students who want to go into healthcare professions, I think it's so important to examine health systems in developing nations. For Microbiology students, I think it's so important to go to regions of the world where the pathogens that we study are actually prevalent.

What advice do you have for CBS students looking to study abroad?

I would urge all my CBS peers to have a date with GradPlanner and try and negotiate a way to fit a semester, or even a May session, into their schedules. Being in CBS makes it more difficult to find the time to go abroad, but it's not impossible and I think it's really important.

Student Scoop

Major: Microbiology

On what appealed to her most about the program:

I'm really interested in the intersection between development and public health, so this program was exactly what I wanted to learn. I also really liked the internship/research aspect of the program. MSID is sort of like a "mini Peace Corps." Kenya has a fascinating history that has shaped the status of healthcare in the country today, so I was excited to study the forces of post-colonialism and structural adjustment and their relationships to health in an immersive way.



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