Before:

What is your name?

Krista

What is your Major?

Social Science

What is your Minor/ Focus?

French

Where are you going for your study abroad experience?

Angers, France

When are you going, and for how long?

From the end of August to the end of December 2008 (about 4 months)

Why did you decide to go on an exchange?

1. It may be one of the only times that I am able to travel outside of the United States.

2. Advantages for future career goals.

What do you hope to get out of it?

A better understanding of French: language, customs, culture, etc.After:

How was your exchange?

Honestly, the majority of my exchange was a great and rewarding experience, but that doesn't mean it didn't have its moments. Like in life I had to decide what I was going to let bother me and when I was going to just 'go with the follow'…which is almost always the best idea. Once I accepted that I was in another country and things are different it was relatively easy to adapt my lifestyle.

What was the hardest thing for you?

I would say depending on public transportation. During my exchange, I lived in a 'suburb' about 7 km from central Angers and the university which meant I was limited by the bus schedule. This wasn't a problem during the day, but made for extra planning on nights and weekends…especially if I was traveling out of town (Taxis are expensive and should be avoided).

What was the greatest thing for you?

Being there…I know it sounds cheesy, but there are so many things that I cannot accurately explain and others that I don't want to share. I bonded with a unique group of French, American and other international students and those experiences will remain with me forever. In conjunction with this was the ability and accessibility to travel. Studying abroad really is an opportunity to see and understand the world.

Would you recommend your experience to other students?

I can understand how fear and anxiety would make some skeptical, but it truly is a once in a lifetime experience that I would recommend to anyone who would listen.