During a week-long group trip around southern Morocco, we got to ride camels in the Sahara Desert during sunset.

Last semester, I studied human rights and multiculturalism in Morocco, but I learned a lot about the USA while there. Although I was on a different continent, the influence of my country was clear to see: American films are shown in theaters, American fashion stores line the streets, and American fast-food chains are in every city. My host family watched the American movie channels as an effort to make me feel at home. Most Moroccans knew more about American celebrities than I did. They even asked me about current events in the States. They knew so much about my country and I was just starting to learn about theirs. Living in Morocco for four months allowed me to see how one-sided the USA’s relationships with other countries can be, especially at the level of individuals. American citizens, for the most part, do not bother to learn about other countries’ politics or culture. My time in Morocco allowed me to take a step back and see America from another culture’s point of view. No culture or country is perfect, but I think the world would be better place if everyone attempts, and maybe even achieves, to understand another culture.

One of the best things about studying abroad in Morocco was making new friends!

One tip I would suggest for students planning to study off-campus is to research a bit about where you are going prior to arriving there, i.e. local customs, cultural do’s and don’ts, traditional food dishes, etc.