Program: Intensive French Language and Culture, Summer 2018
Major: Film and Media Arts

Earning the Language Immersion Badge:
This badge's requirements helped me hone my language skills. It provided constant opportunities to practice my language skills in an environment in which there were native speakers. It allowed me to make connections with new people that I still have contact with today. The language Immersion program allowed me to feel comfortable using the language in all aspects of my stay in France and helped to make my experience be the best that it could be. I was skeptical at first how much of a difference it would make to be living in the country and using this language rather than staying in Utah and using the language exclusively in the classroom. However, even in the classroom, I felt myself push ahead to the head of the class because I was applying myself more to learn the language and trying to immerse myself in it. To this day, my knowledge of French helps me make connections with others, and this is because of the confidence I gained through the immersion experience.

Transferable Skills:
I have actually joined the Alliance of French Speakers that is based in Salt Lake, which is a French speaking club. There are people who are native speakers but also those who have decided to learn on their own and then join the club. I had never known how many French speakers there were in my general area, and it is always a great experience when we get together. Another way in which I use it is at work. I work at Harmons grocery store and there is a woman from Belgium who often comes in. We speak French rather than English and she often tells me how happy she is to speak her mother language. These two instances are ways in which my language skills used through this badge have given me a greater sense of community since I've been back.

“The Learning Abroad experience has impacted my student experience in providing me a real sense of internationalism. I realize that people all over the world are just like me; they hope, they work, and they try to enjoy life to the fullest. This has been one of the greatest things I have learned while attending the University of Utah.”