Grenoble, France

Rachel Smith

**Program:** Intensive French Language & Culture, Summer

**Major:** International Studies

**Earning the Language Immersion Badge:**

I took three classes in French while in country. One was an intensive upper-level grammar course which I attended the entire five weeks. Another was an oral perfection class where we practiced speaking the language with other students, and the other was French Culture class where we discussed various events in France's history. All of the instruction of my courses was taught in French. I had to communicate daily in French with my host-family as well as in class, shopping, or out at restaurants. Language is very important in everyday life and my French Culture class really showed how it has affected history as well. We visited museums and at the end of the class Paula took us to the center of town and showed us where the events we discussed in class took place. The ability to discuss these historical events in French with the French friends that I met was a wonderful experience as I was able to hear and understand their perspective of how it affected their country. Being surrounded by the language meant I was learning new words and phrases constantly. It improved my French immensely as I now see I remember more vocabulary than my fellow students who have not yet had the ability to visit a French-speaking country.

**Transferable Skills:**

I will use my improved French skills to search for an internship abroad or an internship where French would be useful. The skills I learned during my program will help me during my French class this semester as well as in my career in the future. I will use what I have learned to continue to improve my French and become more able to find a job in a translating field.

“My learning abroad experience has increased my desire to perfect my French so I may use it in my future career. I would like to work for an international company and apply for an internship abroad. It has secured my desire to become a translator of some sort and I hope to one day use French to further my career.”