

Todos Santos, BCS, Mexico

Jonah Brown



Program: Culture, Ecology, & Sustainability Field School - Summer, 2019

Major: Anthropology

Earning the Community Engagement Badge:



Earning the community engagement badge was instrumental to my success abroad. I was able to fully integrate with the local community and learn from the many wonders that they had to offer. This allowed me to see their community as they see it. Putting myself in their shoes helped us to more easily

engage with the community in meaningful and helpful ways. One of the most impactful experiences was our time on the ranch. We were able to see how they do things; I learned so much from our time with them. Specifically, we learned how to grow large, prosperous gardens in an arid desert. We were able to learn about a culture that was totally new to us and this provided more experience than anything else.



Earning the Research Experience Badge:



Earning the research experience badge helped me to take the skills I was learning in the classroom and apply them to real-life problems. I was able to see exactly what it would be like to be a working anthropologist in the field. This has helped me to structure my future plans that will aid me to one day become an anthropologist.

One of the projects that we did was an analysis of the community's trash and disposal practices. We were studying how the amount of trash was affecting the community and tourism and what could be done about it. We also met with the local recycling plant in order to understand the problems and challenges they are facing as a community. We only started the research project and prepared information that will be used by future students to implement further action to help the community.

Transferable Skills:



I am now working to become a full-time anthropologist. While abroad, I realized how much information there is in the world to learn. I am using my time now to dedicate myself to learning and expanding my knowledge of the world and especially of anthropology. I am using the language skills that I learned in Mexico to better communicate with native speakers. I also find it much easier to apply classroom discussions to the real world and my personal studies. On the trip, we learned many different anthropological methods that I am constantly referring to during class and my own personal studies.

“Studying abroad has changed the way I look at education and has allowed me to apply what I learn in the classroom to real-world problems. It has supplemented my classroom education with real-world experience that I will remember forever.”