

Trip Overview and Study Abroad Experience:

It was an incredible honor to be accepted into such a incredible program, and having the opportunity to represent both my university and my country while being in a completely different culture made me deeply proud. The study abroad experience was challenging at times, but all the hard work, dedication, and perseverance paid off in the end. The knowledge, experience, and skills I gained throughout the program will continue to shape my personal and academic life for years to come.

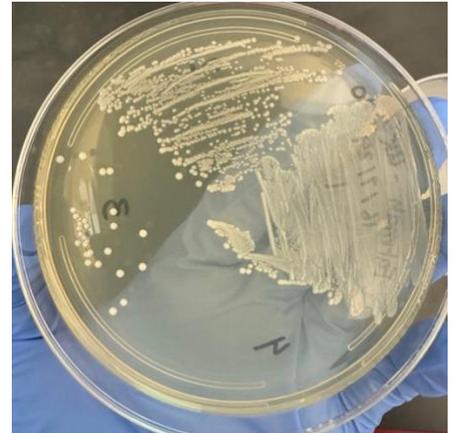
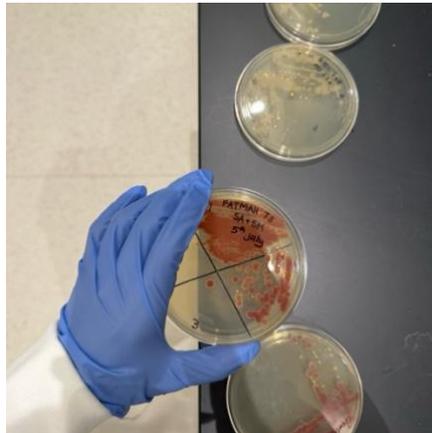
Before this journey, I considered myself an introvert, and I often found it difficult to approach or connect with new people. However, this trip boosted my confidence in ways I hadn't anticipated. I was able to step out of my comfort zone, meet many wonderful individuals, and forge new friendships that I will cherish forever. These interactions taught me the value of networking, communication, and open-mindedness. I learned that every person you meet brings something significant to your life, whether through shared experiences or new perspectives.

Additionally, being surrounded by individuals with bright minds and diverse backgrounds had an extrem impact on my worldview. It expanded my ambitions and helped me refine my future plans. Their passion and drive inspired me to think more creatively and work more diligently toward my goals. The exposure to different cultures, ideas, and academic approaches enriched my understanding and encouraged me to embrace new ways of thinking and problem-solving.

Courses:

During the summer session, I registered for two courses, each with a completely different teaching style. The first was "Introduction to Probability and Statistics," which followed a structure similar to that of Khalifa University, with homework assignments, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam. This course was quite intense and required a lot of work, demanding knowledge across several fields, including coding—an area in which I had no prior experience. However, with the support of my colleagues and the teaching team, everything turned out great. Moreover, the coding skills I gained from this course have boosted my confidence in my Python course this semester.

In contrast, the Microbiology course was more focused on assignments and projects. It was a completely new learning experience, and I enjoyed every second of it. I learned numerous new laboratory techniques and tests involving bacteria and microorganisms. Notably, it was my first time working with the famous CRISPR-Cas9 technology in real life. We used it to delete a gene in yeast and insert another, which caused the organism to change color from white to red and even acquire the ability to glow in the dark. By the end of the semester, each student was given an unknown sample of bacteria to identify, using the series of tests and techniques we had learned throughout the course. It was an unforgettable experience, taught by amazing instructors.



Places:

I fell in love with San Francisco the moment we landed. The weather was incredible and refreshing. We spent most weekends there, exploring new areas each time. The Golden Gate Bridge was one of our regular destinations; its history and architecture were truly impressive. Additionally, the charm of Half Moon Bay was irresistible—the natural beauty, the friendly people, and the wonderful weather made it a place I'll never forget. We even had a memorable picnic there, and I hope I'll have the chance to visit again in the future. Palo Alto's downtown was another place where we made unforgettable memories. The allure of freshly baked waffle cones from the ice cream shop drew us in every time, whether it was day or night.



In short, this was an unforgettable experience that I believe every student should have the chance to undertake. The journey not only fosters personal growth and confidence but also opens doors to new opportunities, both academically and socially. I am incredibly grateful for this life-changing experience, and I highly recommend it to anyone seeking to broaden their horizons and challenge themselves in new and exciting ways. Thanks to the Study Abroad team and especially the AMAZING Ms. Maryam.

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