

STUDY ABROAD

SUMMER 2023

STUDENT REFLECTIONS



MY NAME IS CHARMANEISE LASTER, AND I AM A SENIOR CONCENTRATING IN BIOLOGY AT ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY. I had the opportunity to study abroad in France and Italy, where I took an Organic Chemistry course with ASU Chemistry professor Dr. Mandouma. What can be more beautiful than being in three cities of love for two weeks? Paris, Rome, and Venezia are beautiful places to visit. I saw so many beautiful places. It was like I was in a movie that would never end. You probably think I am exaggerating, but it was an adventure.

At the Lycée Pasteur in Paris, I learned a lot with the little time that I had. At this university I studied Organic Chemistry. I would've liked it even better if I had a chance to work with other college students that are from there—I would've seen and learned so much more from other students' point of view. However, I know this journey is only the beginning, and I am so proud of myself for taking a leap of faith and exploring one of the places that I always wanted to visit.

One of the many places that I visited was the Eiffel Tower. There was music playing that was surrounding the Eiffel Tower. It is located in the 7th Arrondissement (division) of Paris. In addition, the Eiffel Tower is an iconic structure instantly recognizable to the city. Another place I would like to discuss is the famous Château de Versailles, the castle that was home of Louis the XIV (14th), King of France. Its location is just outside of Paris, and it was built in 1661. The castle was partially made out of real gold, and the space of the garden is so big that it has its own lake. During my experience at the castle, I took out a sailboat. The sailboat was one that I had to paddle myself for the first time, and it was scary and exciting at the same time. Lastly, I visited the Louvre Museum. It is located in the center of Paris. I had so much fun learning about the history of the pictures there. The museum is a symbol of the evolution of French culture in all its glory, and it is also the largest museum in the world—which makes sense since Paris is known for its wide avenues, elegant buildings, fashion, cuisine, art, architecture, and lovely parks.

I really hope that any student that is interested in studying abroad takes the leap. Even if you are scared, it's okay—that is normal when you are stepping out of your comfort zone to start something new. However, you won't know what the Lord has planned for you if you don't take that leap of faith.

