



Gilman Global Experience: Megan Grable Cultural Observations

Video Transcript

Introduction

Hi everyone, my name is Megan Grable and I am an International Business and International Studies major from the University of Missouri, Columbia; also known as Mizzou. Currently, I've been studying in China for over a month now at Beijing Foreign Studies University in Beijing, China. I've met so many wonderful people and really had a chance to immerse myself in the culture. It's honestly been the best experience of my life so far and I wouldn't change it for the world.

Cultural Observations

On my campus there is an allotted amount of electricity that you can use per month in each room. So it makes you focus on waste management. And how much you are using, how much you are wasting. That is a great skill to have because that is something I am going to take back to America with me. And they told me that, "Oh you have to air dry your clothes; you have to hang them up." And for me I've never done that. I've always used a washer and a dryer, but now I love it. I've kind of picked up on a lot of the habits here and they've all be good. And it's something that is going to better myself and others.

There is something very unique to the Chinese culture and it is a sport called Ti Jianzi. And it is a sport where they take a puck with washers on it and feather and you can play with yourself or with a group of 2 or more people and you kick it back and forth to each other. My first day here I asked to join a badminton game. I was horrible, but it's really just the experience that matters. So I would encourage people to go out to those areas that are kind of less traveled and meet the people and learn the sport and the culture and traditions.

Overall, I would have to say that no matter where you study abroad at the culture is going to be completely different than what you're use to and I know that a lot of times things weren't what I was expecting and I had to take a step back and say to myself that there is a reason why people do things the way they do. I kept an open mind and I learned why they do things and how they do things. And I've made a lot of great friends along the way. And The things I've learned here in the past couple of months I'm going to take that back with me to my life in the states and it's not only going to better myself, but others. When you study abroad you really need to embrace the culture. You never know some things you may like and change your ways.