

August 22 of 2018

I arrived a few days prior to the start of my program. When I decided to spend my first day in a little town outside of Rome, I didn't think I was going to be traveling 5,600 miles by plane, 30 kilometers by taxi or 35 kilometers by train.

When I got to Rome, I didn't think my first familiar face would be a friend from my hometown, who was coincidentally studying abroad in another program. When I missed my late-night bus, I didn't think I would rely on a shuttle to go out of its way and drop me off. When I arrived at my Airbnb at 11 p.m., I didn't think any family was kind enough to stay up and offer me keys to a warm bed. When I left Seattle earlier that day, I didn't think I'd miss home so much.

But if my first day of 22 abroad taught me anything, it was to stop thinking so much and start experiencing my life.

— *Agustin Castro*