

# Studying Abroad in Greece

By Jenifer Rhodes

The decision to study abroad was an easy one; it was deciding where I wanted to call home for my spring semester that made it tough. The CCIS Consortium offers such wonderful places to go that narrowing the list down really took some time. I decided on Greece mainly because of the culture and the location. Thessaloniki is a wonderful place to live that offers a wide range of activities and a great night life.

Not only had I never been out of the US but I really haven't traveled too far out of Kansas, so the move to Greece made me pretty nervous. But the excitement of living in and traveling a lot of Europe made up for all of it. Actually arriving in Greece was strange. I remember thinking to myself,



“wow this is my home for the next 4 mo.” But after my first night I knew I was going to love it here. I have the best group of fellow students, now friends (90 of them), with me – lifelong friends. I luckily have the best roommate and we will always see to it that we keep in touch and hopefully visit each other on down the road. The main reward out of this experience besides all of the wonderful places that I have visited has to be the friends I've made from this.

I didn't have time to get to homesick. There are those days that I just feel like I stand out, or that I just miss the American life, but for me never to the point that I have regretted coming here. Going to the grocery store the first time was kind of stressful, being rushed to bag my groceries while trying to figure out what I owed. Also I learned fast how to become “Greek”. By that I mean students here better just get used to people cutting in line. That's just how they do it, and soon I learned how to stand so that it doesn't happen as much.

Just thinking about leaving is so sad. I really really love it here and will miss so much about this experience. I truly think that any student with the means to spend a semester abroad should do so; it will change your life.

