

## Honors Program

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### SU Honors Student Studies Abroad in Austria

A Shippensburg University Honors Program student is spending a semester in Austria studying at the University of Salzburg as part of a study abroad program offered through the American Institute of Foreign Study.

Jessica Espenshade, a junior biology major and German minor from Lancaster, knew from an early age that she wanted to study abroad while in college. “Being able to live in a different culture and learn a different language was very important to me,” said Espenshade. She was awarded a scholarship from the Shippensburg University Honors Program to support her study abroad experience.

At the University of Salzburg, Espenshade is enrolled in five classes, including The Modern European Mind, Mozart and His World, and Austrian Culture. She chose classes based on her interests and the requirements of her German minor. Espenshade, a fan of classical music, noted that studying in Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart, has provided many opportunities to attend wonderful classical music concerts. She is also involved in a fencing club and a German coffee group.

“All of these opportunities have allowed me to improve my German and get a better understanding of daily Austrian culture,” Espenshade said of her extra-curricular activities.

In addition to her studies, Espenshade has travelled throughout Europe, visiting London, Prague, Vienna, Munich and Berlin. “My class work is demanding, but we also have a lot of time to travel,” Espenshade said.

Espenshade said the entire semester has been filled with once-in-a-lifetime experiences. While in Munich, she attended the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Oktoberfest. And in Vienna, she saw her first opera, which she said was beautiful enough to send chills down her spine.

“I think that is important for students to study abroad,” said Espenshade. “Any major can do it. Some of the things I experienced were things I may never do again in my lifetime. My time abroad has been filled with memorable moments.”

*The Honors Program at Shippensburg University provides an outstanding undergraduate experience that emphasizes scholarship, leadership, and service. The program is made up of 150 students who are chosen based on academic achievement, intellectual curiosity, and evidence of leadership and civic engagement. Students benefit from small classes, outstanding instruction, exciting research, study abroad, and internship opportunities, and special social and cultural activities. For more information, visit <http://www.ship.edu/honors>.*