My academic career might be based around Washington Square, but my time at New York University has taken place all around the globe. Over my three years at NYU, I have spent a semester in Israel, a summer in Egypt, a winter break in South America, and several weekend trips to other countries. For me, it was a huge step leaving my hometown in Tennessee and taking on life in New York City. Yet my education at New York University has ensured that I continue taking those “huge steps” around the world—steps that lead me to a better career, broader perspective, and bold confidence that I can be a global citizen.

My travels with NYU—whether through study abroad or a stipend to spend a summer somewhere else—have certainly been the largest factor in my academic and professional career. I have learned about working with victims of war trauma in my social work courses, yet I’ve also had the chance to spend two months serving child soldiers in Cairo.

I have taken Arabic classes at NYU’s New York campus, but I have also practiced my skills while purchasing bus tickets in Jerusalem.

I read books sitting in Washington Square about race relations in Brazil that prepared me to attend community meetings with farmers in South America.

As a Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholar, I participate in a program that combines social justice with academic excellence. The MLK travel colloquium was phenomenal. Freshman year, I had the opportunity to go to Mobile, Alabama, during winter break for a service learning project; working alongside Habitat for Humanity, we shingled roofs, put up siding, and learned about the damage still left from Hurricane Katrina. Sophomore year, we flew to Salvador, Brazil, for the experience of a lifetime. After spending a semester learning about race relations in that region, we spent a week rehabilitating a favela school, visiting landless farmers, and listening to Brazilian university lectures.

I have learned that the same social justice issues lie at the root of every community—they are just expressed differently in each environment. I have also discovered the power of teamwork and that academics are so much more enriching when accompanied by service.

Each of my global experiences has been a strong balance of service to the local community and learning about issues that affect the broader world.

The Value of Global Service and Learning

Cayce Pack
Silver School of Social Work

IN HER WORDS

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