

Studying abroad



Lotte Hak

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Part of the International Business program is a five-month period of studying abroad. Lotte Hak studied at Universidad del Pacifico in Peru and had the time of her life. Lotte: "The most valuable thing I got out of it? Personal independence! You learn to rely on yourself and not on your family and friends back home. When I got back to the Netherlands, I really noticed how much I had grown."

For many IB students, studying at THUAS is already an experience of studying abroad. How great is it to add another, perhaps totally different experience, to broaden your horizon even more? A question Lotte answers with much enthusiasm: "It's fantastic! Why stay in a country where things are already familiar? There is a whole world out there to discover. I never was a person who stayed at home waiting for her life to get exciting, but the IB program gave me a great boost in the right direction. After my experience of studying abroad, I'm now fully committed to finding even more adventure."

New people

Being Dutch, going to Peru was in fact Lottes first experience of studying abroad. She didn't know what to expect, but fortunately it didn't take her long to feel at home. Lotte: "Peruvians are super nice people and very proud of their country and food. They'll tell you everything you need to know, which is perfect for your study-abroad period. The university also provides a buddy program and organizes lots of fun activities. I met a lot of people through these activities and of course through having classes together with the other students. Everybody is very eager to make new friends, which makes it really easy."

New projects

Of course, the studying abroad program is a great opportunity to combine your studies with learning about a new country. Lotte: "I followed the course Design Thinking and Innovation. We had to come up with a prototype to solve a problem related to the Peruvian capital Lima. Through human-centered research, we developed a prototype for an educational system to increase the performance of public primary school teachers. It was a very cool project to work on and my favorite course that I followed while I was there."

New you

Lotte has a very different outlook on the world since her time in Peru. "It really opened my eyes to other parts of the world. I've seen so many beautiful places in South America, I fell in love with the countries there! Living there for a while also made me a lot calmer. Before I went on study abroad, I was expecting it to be a stressful time. In reality, I've never felt so relaxed for five months in a row! I realized it's all about your mindset: stop worrying about things you don't have to worry about and you'll be stress free."