

4/11/2018

Dear Class '55,

I am one of the recipients of the Off Campus Studies Scholarship for 2017-2018. I went to Aix-En-Provence in the South of France for a block and had an overall experience that opened my eyes to different lifestyles. Thank you very much for your generosity, and for assisting me with the finances to make this trip much more affordable.

As a group, we visited many of the local tourist stops, such as the Atelier Cézanne and the port of Marseilles. But the best part about the trip was the fact that English was used very sparingly. As an aspiring French major, it helped me to gauge where my skills were as a French speaker. I was nervous upon my arrival, considering that this was my first French class on the block plan, but these nerves were quickly squashed as I built my confidence and spoke French everyday.

Every night, my host family would have dinner at 7:00 p.m. sharp, and if you were not on time, we started without you. These dinners were essential for my language development, as my host family gave me a space to grow as a French speaker and as an overall person.

This would not have been possible, had it not been for your kindness. I am eternally grateful to you all for allowing me to have had this experience. Hopefully, I can look to pay it forward on my own someday, and give someone the opportunity to have a life changing moment just like me.

Thank you.

Maxwell Ishmael '20



