



Office of International Programs
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October 11, 2018

Mr. Daniel L. Holligan
Co-President, Princeton Club of Northern California
335 Alta Mesa Drive
South San Francisco, CA
94080-3007

Dear Mr. Holligan,

We are extremely grateful for your generous support of summer study abroad. This year we again received many requests from students on financial aid for help in meeting the costs of international programs. Well over half of the requests came from students who are on 80-100% financial aid during the academic year. Without support from generous donors like you, they would likely have to forgo the opportunity to enrich their Princeton education by studying abroad.

Perhaps the best way to understand what these experiences mean to students is to hear directly from them. I hope that you will enjoy reading the enclosed student letter(s) from this year's cohort. This year, we have asked award recipients to include their contact information in their letters, please feel free to reach out to them if you should want to learn more about their experience. We kindly ask that you please keep our office part of these conversations, should they occur.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of the program and our students. I can assure you that the experience of living and learning in another culture will continue to have an impact on the students in years to come. Should you find the time to visit campus, I would be happy to introduce you to some of the students who have participated in study abroad.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gisella Gisolo".

Gisella Gisolo
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Dear Mr. Holligan,

I wanted to express my sincerest gratitude for your financial support and making my Summer Study Abroad experience possible. I spent two months in an accelerated Russian language program based in St. Petersburg and not only made large strides in my speaking ability, but was able to read prominent literary texts by Pushkin and Dostoevsky in the original Russian.

Beyond my learning experience in the classroom, the cultural perspective I gained from interacting with new people was equally as valuable. This summer was actually the first time I left the United States. Having the opportunity to be immersed in a completely different lifestyle and learn a new culture was eye-opening for me.

On another note, some unique sport opportunities presented themselves during my stay in St. Petersburg. I ran the White Nights Marathon and actually finished third in the 18 and Under age division, which meant I took part in the awards ceremony where they presented me a bronze medal. When they found out I was from America (and one of a select few foreign participants), they brought me aside for an interview and I got to speak to an actual reporter with my rudimentary knowledge of Russian language. Regardless of how that interview went, it was an incredible experience.

I also had the chance to train with the professional men's volleyball team based in St. Petersburg. I am on the Varsity team here at Princeton and my coach clearly has some international connections. The training was rather stressful, as you can imagine the talent level of professionals far exceeds my one year of collegiate experience. But it was a tremendous privilege and honor for me to be on the court with that group of athletes.

In whole, I had one of the most remarkable and memorable experiences of my life this last summer and I could not be more grateful for your support. If you would like to know more about my summer, my studies, or myself in general feel free to contact me via email at ckeegan@princeton.edu. Thank you again!

Best regards,



Cade Keegan
Princeton University '21
Astrophysical Sciences
Princeton Men's Volleyball