You Can Travel!

Me?...on a study abroad trip?...no way! Hello, my name is Kayla Randall and I recently went on a study abroad trip to Guatemala through Campbell University. The first line of this paper might confuse you, but that is how I felt about studying abroad before an information meeting I attended my freshman year. I had always dreamed, and still do, about traveling the world and helping people in a medical way. Never would I have thought I would be given such a huge opportunity here in little Buies Creek! At that information meeting I learned that Campbell actually takes a trip every other year for a Medical Service Learning trip. At the time it was to Tanzania and this past summer we went to Guatemala. Study Abroad trips were something I was always interested in growing up, but it was more of a dream for me, until I learned how amazingly easy it was to travel the world through a university! I applied and was accepted to go, next thing I knew I was on a plane to Guatemala, living out my dream.

Some might say they can't afford it, they can't go because they have never traveled before, or because they can't imagine leaving behind their family and friends even if it is for a couple of weeks. Let me tell you, if you think that you fall into any of these categories, I was just like you! I never would have thought I would be able to afford to go, I had never even been on a plane before, much less one to another country, and the longest I have ever been away from my family is when I came to Campbell. I am here to tell you, jump for it! At the information meeting I knew right then and there I wanted to go. If you are having any doubts, pray about it! God led me to step out of my comfort zone and to do something I had never done before, and when God leads you to do something, don't let things get in your way! The Study Abroad Office has plenty of resources for you when it comes to affording a trip! If you are truly interested in traveling, you will appreciate everything that comes with it, even a plane ride! Also, your friends and family will be here when you get back and will be eager to hear about your trip and all the new friends you made! Trust me, this is an experience you do not want to pass up! Never would I have expected to go on a study abroad trip, but I did and it was honestly the best experience of my life!

When traveling abroad you learn so much about culture, the world, and yourself. Until you travel, you have not experienced most of the world God so graciously created for us. There is so much more to this world than where we live. Sometimes we become blind to the outside world, but I feel that if we, as a whole, looked at the world around us from a different perspective, oh what things could be changed. After traveling to Guatemala, I came back a different person. Yes, most people would say I haven’t changed that much, but I see everything I do differently. I know that there is so many more people in the world that need help than just the people who surround me. I have experienced another culture entirely and that helps me respect differences in people, and it helped me find myself in that I can travel the world, and make a difference at the same time. Traveling the world is just an application away, what are you waiting for?