

Department of Law – Córdoba, Argentina

This Summer I had the amazing opportunity to do a placement with Projects Abroad in Córdoba, Argentina. The placement was perfect for me, as it combined elements of Law and Human Rights work, both of which are related to the career I want to go into. The projects we took part in were very diverse and gave a great opportunity to



work hands on with the local community and local organisations. We took weekly trips to the Socio-Educative Center for Adolescent Women (CeSAM), where we created games and educational materials for the young women there, usually around topics of human rights, to provide them with education in a fun and engaging way. It was really fulfilling to work hands on with the girls and hear some of their struggles, as many of them were in difficult situations. We also worked an organisation called Fundación Sí, who

organise group outreach work for the local homeless population. We would join a trained worker and provide local homeless people with food as a means to start a conversation in order to provide them with some company. Although I was worried about the language barrier, the guides helped greatly in asking them any questions I had, and many of them enjoyed trying to speak English with me and my awful attempts at Spanish! We also researched advice for them where they needed it, and it was a very humbling experience to interact with them on a personal level. My favourite part of the placement was our work with FUNDEPS, a non-profit organisation that aims to promote human rights development and activism, and make sure human rights have real, meaningful, and sustainable impacts on the laws of the country. During my time there, the government was voting on whether abortion should be legalised within the country, and FUNDEPS was at the forefront of the work and activism in favour of safe and accessible abortions. I was tasked with researching conscientious objection laws throughout South and Central America, in order to provide the organisation with



effective resources on how abortion laws could be implemented in such a highly religious country. This was a hugely important time for the women's rights movement in Argentina, and although the vote did not pass this time, I felt honoured to experience such an historical moment in human rights history and contribute towards the research and activism that continues today.

Although all my accommodation was provided for me, the placement cost was very expensive, and the expeditions fund really helped towards other costs such as trips. There were many museums in the area which were a great educational experience. I got to learn about the history of state-terrorism during the Dirty War, and how that hugely impacted Argentinian society, with the effects still apparent today. I also took a trip to Buenos Aires with other members of the team, which was a great bonding experience and a fun chance to see another side of Argentina. I really enjoyed being



able to see Cementerio de la Recoleta, which is a famous cemetery where many Argentinian politicians and celebrities are buried. We also took many trips to the surrounding nature parks and trails. Argentina is an absolutely beautiful country with so many amazing sites, and I'm really glad I got the opportunity to visit so many interesting and new places. My favourite part of the trip was visiting The Iberá Wetlands, a Reserve which is home to a vast array of wildlife. My favourite animal is the Capybara, and finally getting to see one in

the wild was an experience I will never forget.

Overall, my trip to Argentina was such a fulfilling experience. The work I did really helped in my personal and educational development and gave me some great insight into the type of career I hope to pursue in the future. I also got to make some amazing friends who I'm still in contact with today. Living with an Argentinian family and getting to spend time exploring the rest of Argentina on the weekends allowed me to immerse myself in a completely different culture and get to experience a new way of life. I'll remember the experience I had and the places I visited for the rest of my life and will definitely be returning in the future!

