

# Center for Global Education—Student Testimonial

**Name:** Nicole

**Major:** Conflict Analysis and Resolution

**Hometown:** La Plata, MD

**Internship Placement:** Tawasul, West Bank

**Most useful thing to have in the West Bank:** Good shoes to keep your feet happy. Ramallah is beautiful, and I walked everywhere as much as I could just to take in the sights and sounds of the place.

**Favorite food:** I stayed with a very traditional Palestinian family, and I loved watching them make these big, elaborate dinners for all of their friends and family. One night we rolled rice and beef in grape leaves that we had picked from our backyard.

**What did you do in your internship placement?** I spent most of my time doing research for and writing project grant proposals. The one I enjoyed the most was an idea we were developing for promoting the rule of law in refugee camps among children through creative expression, such as short films and drawings.

**What made your experience in Israel and Palestine memorable?** The day-to-day experiences, especially living in Ramallah, opened my eyes to something new every time I stepped outside. There was never a day where I didn't meet someone who had a story. Taxi drivers, people I sat next to on the bus, people I passed in the streets, friends I met through my host family- everyone has been affected by this conflict in very real, very powerful ways.

**How did your international work experience contribute to your academic or professional career?** The program matched me with an internship that fit my interests, so I had the chance to see how what I am studying is used to create the change we always hope to read about in our textbooks. It definitely helped me focus my interests and narrow down what I would like to pursue after graduation.

**Favorite Memory:** We spend the last few days of our program in Tel Aviv, right down the street from the "tent city" protests, where Israelis were choosing to live in tents set up along sidewalks to protest the rising cost of housing. A few of us decided to walk down Rothschild Blvd, which was really the center of the movement, one night to take a look at it all for ourselves.

**Why would you recommend this program to other students?**

I don't think anyone can visit Israel and the Palestinian Territories without developing an emotional attachment to the land and the people. It's the best kind of cultural immersion, because it combines education with real experience.

The first week my group and I spent meeting different government officials and village leaders from both Israeli and Palestinian sides, and then we spent the rest of our time living and working in our placements and traveling as we pleased on our time off. It's a great combination because we all had the chance to form our own opinions based on the facts and on our own experiences.

