

[Music plays throughout video] [Freshman Seminar Abroad/Honors Research Seminar in Cuba Michigan State University Honors College Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education Michigan State University
[3 women at harbor holding MSU Spartan flag]

>>Sydney [Environmental Engineering]: I wanted to go to Cuba for like four years now because I had an AP World History teacher in my freshman year of high school who studied in Cuba for a couple years and so like the entire class like all those who were world history was Cuba focused and so I just wanted to go like since then I got the letter in the mail and it was just perfect.

>>Taryn [Neuro Science & Spanish minor]: I think a lot of the drive was that you know recently there's been a lot of changes with them trying to normalize relations between the United States and Cuba. Previously I didn't know much about Cuba, so I thought like what better way to learn about it then actually go there and talk to the people and learn about the country you know while I am there to get like the first-hand perspective.

[photo of Spanish colonial architecture]

[Group of students holding MSU Spartan flag in front of statute in plaza.]

[The program is open to first-year Honors College and Academic Scholars students.]

[While in Cuba each student conducts their own research project.]

>> Taryn: Well, each one of the students - our overview was sustainability - but then each one of the students got to pick their own like individual topic.

>> Raghav [Biochemistry]: I personally researched the special period in Cuba which is kind of like their depression.

>>Mia: I studied the natural medicines in Cuba .

>>Sydney: I studied the Jewish population in Cuba.

>>Tim [Political Theory & Political Science]: So I chose the Cuban internet which is pretty much vastly different than everybody else's topic.

>>Taryn: So mine was how the normalization of relations with the United States would impact Cuban education.

>>Mia [Kinesiology & Spanish minor]: [photo of Mia and doctor in hospital]
Actually I got the opportunity to shadow a doctor in Cuba, The professor set it up so that was awesome. It's like an actual Cuban hospital

>>Sydney: I got to go to a couple different synagogues and I talked to a couple of Jewish people and I went in with one research topic like focus like a hypothesis and then it totally ended up being wrong which is even cooler and I talked to

some really cool people including Fidel Castro's personal bodyguard. His old personal bodyguard who [photo of Spanish colonial building in city with vintage cars] ended up being the historian at the biggest temple in Havana which it was really cool. [different view of city and buildings and cars]

>> Raghav: [photo of group at plantation] Just learning in a different environment where you actually thrown into the environment it's more hands-on. I think that's definitely an experience that makes it much more realistic much more applicable.

>>Tim: [photo of children in classroom] I could have just done all my [photo of group by water] research online. I could have done everything from the BBC or New York Times. It would be a fine research paper but the fact that you can talk to the people who actually deal with this, talk to people who this will affect, you will get a completely different experience.

[photo of crowd in plaza with Spanish colonial architecture]

[group photo of students]

[Students wishing to participate should apply through the Office of Study Abroad website.]

[www.studyabroad.msu.edu]