

The Secret Life of Adam Schnitkey

By: Adam Schnitkey

"Oh my god you have to study abroad," A sentence I've heard endless amounts of time while first starting out in college. Everyone from close friends to professors and advisors, from the moment I stepped foot onto campus I couldn't avoid these suggestions about studying abroad. However going into college I had no intention of studying abroad because I had seen how outrageous the prices are and figured I'd better spend my money elsewhere.

Fast forward to last week while picking a movie with my buddy late at night to watch. He suggests *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* to me, I had never seen it before so we picked the movie and watched. I had no idea what to expect, but afterwards I was blown away by the message of the story. Walter Mitty, a middle aged man immersed the corporate world, found himself sitting in front of his computer screen finding it impossible to fill out his life's greatest experiences. Throughout the film he ends up taking multiple leaps of faith and ends up making an incredible journey. There I was, in the middle of deciding whether or not the study abroad program I had been accepted into was worth the money, and I found the exact inspiration I was looking for.

As strange as it sounds the cheesy romantic movie *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* reminded me that I'm young with an amazing opportunity in front of me. I don't want to ever reach a point in my life where I look back and think "what if I would've spent that extra money to go abroad?" I am at a point in my life where I can take these chances and experience unbelievable things, and it dawned on me that money should not limit that. I thought to myself there is no way I will let myself fall into regret later in my life by not taking a chance.

International travel can impact my life because it can provide me with memories and invaluable experiences that I can carry with me forever. Seeing legendary landmarks, eating native foods, and making unique connections with people are priceless things that I have decided I want to experience. International travel can impact my life by taking me out of my comfort zone, and plopping me into a completely different world than the one I experience daily. Traveling the world is something everyone wants to do in college, and having the realization that I can actually fulfill that dream is quite an awesome feeling. I refuse to let myself go through the "what if" scenario later in my life, this is the moment where I change that what if into a why not and I am extremely excited about what is to come.