



**Yale College  
Center for International and Professional Experience**

**[First name] [Last name]  
XXXX College Class of XXXX  
ISA: Yale Summer Session  
Dubrovnik, Croatia, Summer 2012  
[Name of ISA Fund]**

**Yale Summer Session in Dubrovnik: History & Culture of Southeastern Europe**

This past summer (2012) I spent five weeks studying in Dubrovnik, Croatia. I was a part of the Yale study abroad program that taught about the history and culture of Southeastern Europe, focusing on the Balkans. I was able to go on this trip because I was given an International Summer Award which was provided by the **[Name of ISA Fund]**. Without this funding I would not have had the opportunity to explore such a rich culture and learn so much about its history.

In my program I learned about the history of the Balkans ranging from the Byzantine Empire occupation to the current day. The course was taught by two Yale professors who are native to the Balkans, which was great because it gave us a real perspective on the history we were learning. We lived at the Inter-University Center in Dubrovnik and had classes there. Our learning was not limited to the classroom though. We were able to explore the beautiful city of Dubrovnik, which has been a major European seaport dating back over six hundred years.

Every weekend our professors took us on excursions throughout the Balkans. During our first weekend we took a bus to explore neighboring cities. We were able to sample the local cuisine. We visited many museums and saw local rural communities. Leaving the city of Dubrovnik and exploring local communities was a good way to take in Croatian culture.

We also had an excursion to Montenegro, which is to the south of Croatia. Montenegro was a very different scene than Croatia. Driving through Montenegro we were able to see the beautiful scenery. We stopped in the coastal city of Kotor. Here we visited local churches and learned about Kotor's rich history. The Balkans have a very diverse religious past which we learned a lot about.

The second half of our course was dedicated to the Bosnian genocide. Professor Beserivic is a Bosnian native and a practicing Muslim. Because of her religion she was forced out of the country and came to the United States when the genocide began. For the third excursion we had a weekend trip to Sarajevo, in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Sarajevo is full of historic importance. The city was still recovering from Serbian attacks nearly twenty years before. Many building still had visible bullet holes. Sarajevo still maintains a strong Islamic influence. We visited the Sarajevo tunnel which was built when it was under siege in the nineties. It used to bypass the arms embargo during the war to provide humanitarian aid to the ailing Bosnians.

My summer program as a whole was a great life experience. It was my first extended stay abroad and I am incredibly grateful to the donors of the **[Name of ISA Fund]**.



[Close-up portrait photo]



[Another photo of interest—with or without you or others]