

#studyabroadbecause



Megan Stetzel whywaittoseetheworld.com

I didn't study abroad during my undergraduate degree. In fact, I didn't leave the United States until I turned 25. I had always thought, someday I'd travel, someday I'd see the world.

Finances have and will always be a struggle. I didn't come from a well-off family. I took out loans to fund my entire education and ultimately, mostly due to lack of knowledge, determined that studying abroad wasn't in my budget. In hindsight, there were ample opportunities for scholarships and savings available to me had I just dug slightly deeper.

One day, I woke up and realized that I had been surrounded by the same people in the same bubble in Upstate NY for my entire life. I rarely encountered anyone who looked differently than me, anyone who spoke different from me, anyone who came from a different upbringing or culture. I realized how shallow my thinking was, how little I knew about the world, and right there and then I decided to change that.

At 25, I bought a one-way ticket to Cambodia to get my TEFL certification to teach English in Thailand. I decided that not only did I want to travel but I wanted to travel to cultures, climates and countries that were as different from my own as I could. I'm not going to sit here and say everything was easy. My family and friends didn't understand me wanting to leave, even for a short period of time.

Flash forward 5 years, and I can't believe I didn't start this quest for global education and citizenship sooner. Through traveling and meeting people, I've become a better American. I've become a better person; I don't complain when the coffee shop is out of my favorite flavor, I rarely get irritated by any traffic I've ever encountered in the USA, and I'm most likely to look beyond the eyes of the person in front of me to try to understand where they are coming from and why they are saying the things they are.

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Having grown up in the sheltered state I did, I wasn't ever exposed to people with alternative lifestyles and views. I didn't know what was possible in the world.

I am now a business owner. I have an employee. I work remotely from my bed, couch, the cute coffee shop down the street or dare I say, the beach! Every day, I wake up excited for what the day is going to bring and with the flexibility to fully embrace it all because I took that first leap of faith into the world.

Megan is a full time traveler, blogger and social media whiz. She is the co-founder of WhyWaitToSeeTheWorld.com, an online travel magazine for millennials, reaching well over 100k monthly viewers.



whywaitworld

DESTINATION

**Thailand,
by way of Cambodia**



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