

Photos and comments from JSIS Rome Study Abroad and Task Force in 2017 and 2018

Rome 2017: Students participate in simulated NATO Security Forum with senior NATO officials.



Rome 2017: Students on field trip to Pompeii



Rome 2018: Students on day trip to Roman Forum.



Rome 2018: Students hosted at Turkish Embassy by His Excellency the Turkish Ambassador to Italy.



Some student comments on the 2018 Program

Student 1: In the simulation, we were divided into groups representing the members of the North Atlantic Council, and presented with various instructions and intelligence updates. Being a representative for Turkey, I gained deeper insight into their current hardships as well as their uncertain position in the council attributable to their distinct geographic location. This simulation served as a way for us to first-hand experience the difficulties associated with consensus decision making, and the importance of the flexibility of member nations throughout this process. LK took on the role of the Secretary General to moderate the exercise, and produced an optimistic and inclusive environment amid the pressure. Connecting with numerous NATO Officials, and performing a simulation of the North Atlantic Council was extremely beneficial for us. It provided an extensive understanding of the functioning of NATO, and the dynamics of the member countries as well as their relations to the rest of the world.

Student 2: On a separate note, I would like to emphasize how much I thoroughly enjoyed having LK with us for two weeks. She is knowledgeable on all-things NATO and has such a diverse background. When first walking into the NATO Defense College, I was shocked by the predominance of men and little number of women in the college. What I loved about LK, and VR too, is their ability to hold their ground in conversation, and thrive in a work environment where women are clearly outnumbered. It is inspiring to see two extremely intelligent and motivated women prospering in an organization that has historically been very militarily focused, and in turn limited women involvement

Student 3: All of the speakers were a joy and I felt confident in their knowledge, and confidence with the subject. I appreciated that the speakers came from a wide variety of professional backgrounds, both military and civilian, and from a wide variety of national backgrounds. I was the first real chance I've had to compare and contrast the world/political views of various European and US individuals. I felt especially confident in the knowledge of LK and SG. Both were very personable and were extremely well versed in all of the questions we asked of them. I felt more comfortable speaking with them as they took an interest in participating in our program outside of the class periods and were always accessible for questions. Both also provided insight on professional career opportunities after our undergraduate education.

Note: The speakers "LK" from NATO Headquarters and "SG" from Saint Petersburg, Russia, are expected to return to the Rome 2019 Program.

For more information contact the Rome 2019 Program Director at lorenz@uw.edu