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IPDS Siena Student Teaching | Spring 2022

## ADVICE

- If you're curious, go for it! International teaching may not be your career path, but studying abroad will change you for the better and leave you with wonderful memories.
- Connect with your cohort. You will be very close while abroad and it's good to establish a rapport.
- Have an open mind to new ways of living! There is no 'weird' or 'bad', only approaches that are similar or different. Embrace others' cultures and ways of living, you may find you prefer it to your own!



## DESTINY

IPDS Siena was integral to my career plans and personal identity as a music educator. Simply being at the school is a favorite memory. Teaching and my relationships with the teachers had the most profound impact. I progressed my teaching and learning interests towards inquiry- and project-based methods and applied to jobs abroad. Colleagues shared how they came to teach at IS Siena and the positives and negatives of assuming this kind of professional role. I learned it's possible to teach internationally and be happy doing it and, ultimately, accepted a position to teach in Greece.

## AWARENESS

The most important change I experienced is the way I approach language learning. Everyday I had a moment of overwhelm by the Italian I was hearing but couldn't fully understand or respond to easily. It was humbling and led me to listen rather than speak, which I continue to do. I became more empathetic toward English Language Learners.

## COMPANIONS

It was awkward at first, but I became close friends with my host family. Each night I learned Italian from them and I went with them to basketball matches, ping-pong tournaments, family homes for dinner, etc. We took daily walks after school. They were so gracious and we still talk.



Check Out Nick's IPDS Blog:  
<https://buffalostateipdsstudentteaching.weebly.com/nick>

