

# Curitiba, Brazil

The minor “Crossing Borders” offered me a study abroad experience which I’ll never forget! I have spent two months in Curitiba, Brazil, where I researched the mobility of students at one of the biggest universities in the city. I have learned a lot about transportation in the city and sustainable development goals and it was super fun to get to know a new culture.

I choose this minor because many people I know we’re going to or had spent time studying abroad and I had only heard positive stories. What I really liked about this minor is that you gain experience in a self-chosen domain instead of just following courses at an university. When I came to Brazil I did not know any Portuguese and since almost everyone in my house didn’t speak English, so I also have learned a new language! I have become a lot more independent than I was before and have come to love the Brazilian culture. The way they express themselves, how open and kind they are and of course the food (rice and beans every day).

Something that really struck me was the inequity in the country. The difference between the rich and poor is very visible everywhere you go. Women with children weaving bowls at the side of the street, men pulling huge carts collecting trash and a lot of homeless people. This made me more aware of the privilege that we have in the Netherlands and it made more grateful for my education, friends, family and possessions. This especially made this experience so good, because you learn more about the world and about yourself!

