

Student testimonial

Philippines



Experiencing the crossing borders module was one of the best choices I made throughout my studies. Moreover, I enjoyed my time staying in the Philippines. Even though it is located in Asian the culture differs from others Asian countries. This is due to the strong influence by the US.

Deciding to go with the organisation 'Volunteers for the Visayans' was contributing so much to this positive experience. Not only did I have a volunteer centre which offered me support and advice but also, I stayed in the best local family which was preparing traditional meals for me and cared for me as one of theirs. Regardless of the fee I paid, I felt secure and I had people who could help me.

My local project was focused in a woman shelter which helps women who suffered abuse and domestic violence, besides this women with drug related cases are admitted to stay. All women are staying in the shelter for their own security and for the time their cases are still in court. However, the NGO I was staying with offers more projects like nutrition, teaching, nursing, working in an orphanage and in a rehabilitation for boys which were convicted of crimes. Moreover, the organisation is involved in additional help. Staying here over Christmas made me see their involvement in the different placements when accompany the gift giving and a Christmas party for sponsored children-which were rescued by the company from the local dumpsite.



During my stay, I decided to help within the women shelter and, in the afternoon, I was helping in the orphanage. Still, I had the time for some travelling and meeting other volunteers. Different than I expected there were 5-13 other volunteers with whom, I could share my daily experiences. Moreover, Leyte, the island VFV is placed on- one of 7000 islands in the Philippines- is relatively central and has some beautiful spots for weekend tours. For the short amount of time, I experienced so much which made it hard to keep up with study chores. Still, it was doable and one of the best countries I have ever travelled to.

