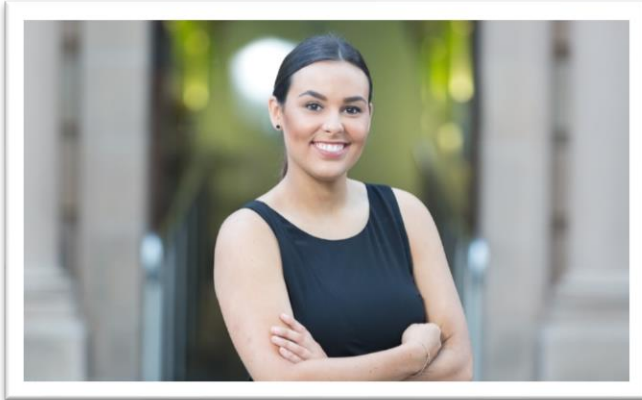


## JULY IN CHICAGO, USA

CHENOA MASTERS (QUT), 2017



Psychology and Digital Media are two subjects that I am most passionate about and I'm so glad to have had the chance to study at Loyola University in Chicago. My professors were kind and had a great teaching style. Blending into the American education system was really interesting. It taught me a lot about my own learning style and the Australian education system.

Chicago in the summer was something that exceeded all of my expectations. It was warm and vibrant most of the time but what I loved the most was the fact that the city had always something happening. Be it a festival, concert or carnival I assure you that you will never be bored. In fact, you would need to plan your days in such a way that you're able to fit all of these experiences in. Moreover, classes only take up a few half days a week, leaving a large amount of time for travelling around Chicago and chilling by the "beach front" of the Michigan lake.

During my time here, I got to meet so many new faces, and make friends with other college students who showed me around the city. Interestingly, I found that the Aussie accent goes a long way when interacting with people here. By staying in the International House, I'm happy to say that I not only now have friends from all over the world but by living with them I have learnt so much about their cultures, languages and tastes that has really enabled me to gain a well-rounded global perspective.

There is never a shortage of activities with the International House. They arrange events and excursions for you alongside other International students. They take you to food nights, baseball games, road trips, hikes, state fairs and much more.

I love that the US is remarkably easy to travel around. For example, during weekends or days when I did not have class, I would jump on a bus and go to a neighbouring state for a concert or an event. One of the other things I really enjoyed was hiring a bike and exploring bike paths around the lakefront and the city.

This trip has not only taught me about new cultures and new subjects but has most importantly given me valuable insight to myself and my country. You always hear how America and Australia and so similar yet operate so differently and I can say that my experiences have reflected this very statement. Overall, my 6-week summer college experience has been phenomenal. I can gladly say that I've gained so much during my stay there and there is always something to do in America!