



## What CIS Graduates Say

In the words of former students...

"I think that C.I.S. has been a great experience! It has helped me in a way that I am able to understand other cultures much better. The teachers are very helpful. They have given me confidence in that I can do anything I want if I just put my mind to it and don't give up."

"It truly gave me a new perspective on life. It makes you aware of the world around you and broadens your horizons, which I believe can help you in any profession."

"I have learned a lot through my experience in the program and have no regrets. I have grown both with my fellow classmates and as an individual. The experience of hosting a student was one that I will never forget. Good times. Thank you, C.I.S.!"

"C.I.S. was such a wonderful experience. It taught me to appreciate other cultures and people as well as broaden my horizons. C.I.S. allows students to experience a variety of events and classes with amazing teachers."

"I got to meet incredible friends and teachers."

"There is closeness in the group and I have made some great friends."

"C.I.S. was great. It felt like a family. I really enjoyed having the same faces in my classes from 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. We grew close to the teachers also."

"It was good in that it gave good, bright students a group of friends to be with. I feel like I have a broader spectrum of intelligence than other honors students."

"C.I.S. was a wonderful experience for me. It was very challenging but fun. I not only came out with more knowledge than before but with many friends that will last for a lifetime."

"I am thankful that I had challenging teachers to prepare me for college."

"C.I.S. has been an enlightening experience. The international speakers were great!"

### Letters from graduates...

I was just reminiscing on my old high school days and I realized that being a part of CIS was the best experience I could have had. It got me to work hard and get into Cornell University. CIS not only taught me work ethic, it shaped my life and my ideas. Since getting the opportunity to travel to Japan and Spain, as well as host girls from four different countries, I now see the world differently. I enjoy traveling, but not in the sense of going to the tourist traps and buying silly gifts. I want to learn about the people, their culture, how their cities were built, so I can make a difference in my own community one day.

I took the chance and studied abroad last summer in Switzerland for 5 weeks, and it was one of the best decisions I made in college so far. I traveled around Europe by train, figured out how to get around on my own, and just learned about the cities I was in. I have changed my major a few times and have decided to stick with Environmental Studies and International Affairs, possibly with a focus in Urban and Regional Planning.

I just wanted to say that I am thankful that I went to DP and that I was accepted into the Center for International Studies Program. I would not have had the same opportunities if I went to my zoned high school. I am in my second year of college now, and I still think back to the good times of high school and how it has shaped my decisions. - E. Serra

I miss CIS so much that I just had to write you an email! Just wanted to let you know how often I think about DP and everything about CIS. For starters, I entered college as a sophomore because of all my AP credits, which is an amazing feeling (so tell all your students this year that it actually DOES pay off. If I can do it, they can too). Second, I feel really smart in some of my classes hahaha... for that, I give all the credit to you and the other CIS teachers. I was the only one in my history class who knew enough about Manet's work to talk to the whole class all about it for a good five minutes. Then the professor started talking about Freud and again I was the only one with the information. I felt like a genius in that class. It is such a good feeling!

Over Christmas break, one of my past exchange students came to Orlando for her vacation and it was so amazing to see her again. I keep in touch with all of my foreign guests, and I love to talk to my friends at school about "my friends who live in Europe".

So many people here went to private high school and think that they got such a good education compared to public school, but when I look at my CIS pictures I know they are so wrong!!! I am going to be studying abroad all next year in London; I don't think I ever would have had the guts to do something like it if it weren't for traveling with CIS and spending two weeks in a house in France with a family. Every time I get nervous I just say, "Well, I have so many friends in France, Denmark, and Austria... I have plenty of people to hang out with." It's not something many college freshmen can say and I am so glad that I can!!!! - L. Kelser