

Corrie Hannah

Corrie Hannah was born and raised Flagstaff, Arizona. She came to the UA with a desire to travel and quickly discovered the International Studies program. As a result, she's lived in Tanzania, Moscow and Kyrgyzstan. She speaks Russian, Swahili, Kyrgyz and is studying Persian.

Corrie Hannah came to the University of Arizona "looking for the first opportunity to go out of the country," she said.

As a freshman, she met a fellow student who told her about the UA International Studies Program. From then on she needed a passport.

Hannah's first trip abroad was in the fall, taking a semester-long sojourn from her studies to volunteer in Arusha, Tanzania, where she learned Swahili and visited rural villages to teach youth about HIV transmission, prevention and awareness. She returned to Tanzania the following summer.

A year later the Honors student headed to Moscow through the UA Study Abroad program, spending the summer studying Russian and the country's history and culture.

Next was a Boren Scholarship to attend American University of Central Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan for two semesters. While there, she volunteered with the Alpine Fund to help disadvantaged and vulnerable youth learn life skills through outdoor adventure programs. She also taught English to Alpine Fund interns.

On her own, Hannah also has traveled to Kenya and Uganda, India and Afghanistan. Hannah doesn't know where she gets her wanderlust. She was born and raised in Flagstaff in Northern Arizona. Her parents are not particularly adventurous and have never been out of the country.

Hannah has an affinity for languages. She considers herself fluent in English, advanced in Russian, intermediate in Swahili and Kyrgyz and elementary in Persian. She's also fluent in computer programs, including web design and remote sensing and image processing. She's an experienced barista, rueda de casino salsa dancer and hiker.

Hannah also participates in the UA NASA Space Grant program. She's conducted exurbanization research in Cochise County, trained Tucson youth for a civic-engagement project, served as student intern advisor and helped develop a database on invasive buffelgrass. She also is working on a Northern Arizona community asset mapping project for Arid Land Studies.

The International Studies program at the UA is designed for advanced and highly dedicated students who want a customized, multidisciplinary education and who have a strong desire to work in an international setting. Students focus on critical problems in international affairs. Hannah's honors thesis involves transportation corridors and how they help or hinder regional economic development in South and Central Asia.

Her passion for language and travel led to a surprising benefit – she has enough credits for a major in Russian and Slavic studies, in addition to her International Studies major specializing in science and technology.

While she completes her last semester as an undergraduate, Hannah plans to apply for a Fulbright scholarship for graduate study – abroad of course.

Eventually she might like to live in Central Asia and work in the realm of U.S./Central Asian relations. "I really like Central Asia. The people and the culture are really interesting. There are lots of mountains. It's really beautiful." The Arizona native is well prepared for the climate extremes – it's very hot in the summer like Tucson and even colder in the winter than Flagstaff.

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