

# [Why teens should travel abroad before college](https://assignbuster.com/why-teens-should-travel-abroad-before-college/)

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Most parents have a protective grip on their child until the moment they leave for college to “ face the real world”. What these parents don’t know is how badly they are ruining their child. Yes, protective is good, but why do they all of a sudden feed them to the wolves the second they move out? As a current senior in high school and with lots of traveling abroad without parental supervision, not only did I learn a lot about myself, but I also learned my limits. As a seventeen-young-spirited-girl, I have been categorized as a “ homebody” for the majority of my life. It wasn’t until my parents sent me off to France with my school-group for two weeks for me to finally realize that I wasn’t what most people assumed.

I learned more about myself in this specific two week trip than I did in my whole seventeen years of living. This trip took place during the summer of my senior year—Just in time for the college process. At this time, I wanted to be as close to home as I possibly could. Believing that my family was my safety-net, I thought that I wouldn’t be able to handle being on my own at eighteen years old. I was the girl who eliminated most colleges that weren’t within a 50 mile radius from my house because I was simply too afraid of distance, so taking on all of France by myself scared me to death. It wasn’t until I got on that plane and started to fly over the Atlantic Ocean for me to realize that everything was going to be alright.

I called my parents almost everyday so they knew I was safe, but not because I couldn’t handle being away from them. Being launched in the real world without my parents over my shoulder telling me what’s right from wrong, I had developed a growth of maturity and independence. I had to learn how to adapt to my new surroundings and be forced to grow up. I had to make sure I was at the airport in time and pass security, had to speak fluent french for two weeks so I could speak the language of the common people, and had to make sure I got on the right metro and know when to get off. If my parents were there, I would completely rely on them.

Overseas, I felt powerful to say the least and I haven’t been more proud of myself. At this time, I would never have thought that in a million years I would have craved that much independence. Within the first couple days of me coming back to the states, all my family would say was that I left the old me in Europe and “ brought back the mature Brianna.” Coming back just in time for my senior year of high school, I knew then that I had to get out of my home-state for college. This wasn’t because I didn’t want to be close to my home, but because all I wanted to do in the next stage of my life was to have new experiences like the experiences I had in Europe—new surroundings, new people, and a new environment. Once I came back home, all I wanted was to travel and to see the world.

It is currently the greatest addiction of mine. With that being said, I am going to college six hours away from home, which is the exact distance it is from my home to France via plane. The girl who used to be a homebody and was scared to leave the nest made an enormous life changing decision simply so she could see more of the world.