



Aurora

from

Brampton

to

Argentina

“Fin.”

So here we are, at the end of exchange. What a rollercoaster these past 9 months have been. Today I was on my way home from school when suddenly, it hit me. In just 2 weeks, it will be the last time I will excitedly run out of school as the school bell rang, waiting for my host dad to pick me up, to go home and have lunch with my host family who I have grown so close with. It will be the last time I will drive down these bumpy streets, it will be the last time I will spend my Friday nights at the beautiful riverside with 8 of my best friends who have taught me that no matter the race, colour, religion, background, or country, humans are capable of living in harmony despite our differences.



These last 3 months have been about closure. It has been about taking in all that I can before I return to my life in Canada and tackling each day with a new challenge. Every day that I wake up here in Argentina is a challenge. The language, homesickness, you name it. No better word could describe how I feel in these last moments than conflicted. This year indeed presented itself with its challenges but the hard times made me appreciate all the good times that much more. I look back at this year and I can say that I have learned so much, grown so much, and made incredible relationships and that has helped me immensely with my closure and saying goodbye.

So here I am. At the end of my exchange. Preparing to say goodbye to all that I've known for 9 months and saying goodbye to an experience that I will never get back. Some days I wish I could restart this year and press play again. If I could do this year over again, as hard as it was, I would 100% do it over again. An exchange student told me "there will come a moment that makes all the hard times worth it." And he was wrong. Because that moment never came for me. But I look back at all the great moments I had and the amazing relationships I built and that's what made all of this worth it.

I started this journey not knowing what to expect. I knew I was going to learn Spanish and Argentinian culture. I now leave with a second family, a second life, and a second home. I have friends from all over the world now and I am never going to have all 8 of these people in the same position ever again. A huge thank you goes out to everyone; Rotary, my friends, my family in Canada, my host families, and every person that has helped me every step of the way. This experience, undoubtedly, has been life-changing and I am so excited for what the future holds.



Por ultimo vez, con amor de todo mi Corazon,

Aurora